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Esquire

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEN

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS

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The Outer Man Cold weather fashions

12th Hour Gifts For the last-minute Christmas shopper, a potpourri to fill out your gift list

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ESQUIRE'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST 234

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EDITORIAL

NOSE FLUTES, KAZOOS, AND SANTAS

A few years ago on Christmas Eve, we were gathered around the teletype in New York putting to bed until far into the night, the issue of the moment. Repartee with our production director in Chicago had reached white heat earlier in the evening but as midnight approached his messages began to slow and falter. Until finally came a warm Merry Christmas over the wire only slightly misspelled as he admitted to have been operating the machine for the past hour himself. Since we had a fluent-fingered man on our side and gave him a hundred words to his one it was probably the only time that Editorial won an argument with Production. As we walked home through the slush that night we thought of him crouched over the infernal machine, crotchety fingers fighting the keys struggling to put into basic English the outraged paragraphs that normally berated the editors so lavishly and finally giving in to the lonely Christmas wish for his associates a thousand miles away but still closer than the merrymakers cavorting outside on Michigan Boulevard.

To the lonely but generous-hearted then we turn at this time with our Christmas wishes.

Our heart goes out to projectionists in lonely motion picture houses featuring three Westerns on Christmas Eve when Indians bite the dust long after midnight.

We think of the milkmen who must mix and deliver the extra eggnog for the Yule, requiring more and more clanging of bottle on bottle in the early dawn. (And in the process leave us not forget the less generous donors of the prime ingredient.)

We shudder for the gents on the return desks of department stores as they face the morrow knowing full well that many are sent but few are chosen—and the groans of the overburdened will soon be heard in the land.

We yearn on behalf of the rubbish collector who must pick up the tinseled tree not long from now, the sad relic of happiness, the broken bits of decorations and prickly balsam needles festooning his trousers. (We have no sympathy for the garbage collector, however, who in most communities disdains to touch "rubbish." He passes Christmas trees by whether old or new and the hell and a couple of old whiskey bottles with him.)

We applaud and not necessarily pity the man in Horn and Hardart's who prepares their famous turkey stuffing. We wish him well and only hope he has the firm mind and resolve to choose wisely and instantly between nuts and raisins as he performs his internal mysteries.

Blessings on the engineer of the shuttle subway between Grand Central and Times Square—the man who drives his lonely track from one station to another covering miles but always the same miles, his terminals as sure as life and death, but too frequently touched.

Cheer to the guy in the change booth in the 103rd Street station of the Broadway subway who has no brothers on the Seventh or Lexington Avenue (96 to 110 Streets are they without the bastard stop at nowhere in between). May his lonely vigil yield more adventurous travel and shinier nickels than theirs.

Strength to the man in the dead-letter office who receives lost and strayed Christmas cards, whose life is bounded by blighted friendship and unrequited love.

Our sympathy to the manufacturers of nose flutes whose market is taking a breather.

Brotherly love to the kazoo manufacturers who probably have plenty of tin but who are finding that the tissue paper for the membrane is getting scarcer and scarcer as the prices soar. Inflation strikes everywhere.

And blessings above all to our brothers on Esquire: the man in the darkroom who developed the pictures you will see, the girl who typed the author's manuscript, the charwoman who patiently picked the snippets of paper and broken clips from the editor's rug, the window cleaners who ogle with Olympian gaze our pretty secretaries as they cavort in heavenly flirtation, the glue men who glue the binding of the magazine, and patient souls who replace a broken 'e' with an unbroken 'e' before the last galley hits the final run.

To you all, God rest you merry.

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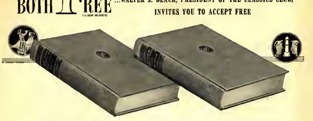

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BACKSTAGE WITH ESKY

Wally Litwin has skied in the Andes, built airfields in Egypt, flown a light plane to unexplored islands in the Philippines, and danced the kasatsky (a Slavic improvisation involving squat jumps, back dips and other impossible contortions) before two hundred Russians in Murmansk.

Hold it! Litwin got what he wanted with the 35 millimeter

"But I guess it sounds a little dull," he commented the other day. "Besides, I was pretty loaded when I did the kasatsky."

Passing from such apparently pedestrian pursuits, we asked him how he managed to get Maurice Chevalier to hold still (or moving) for the pictures in *Paris à la Maurice*, pages 97-99.

"I was coming up from Spain with Ella Logan. She's an old friend of his and she introduced us one night at the Empire Theatre in Paris." Chevalier's exuberantly mobile face was almost too good to be true, so Wally went to Chevalier's hatter and got an assortment of chapeaux that would let the great man show his stuff. "Then it was just a question of trying on hats and now make a face. We did the whole thing in twenty minutes."

That struck us as being a rather neat little twenty-minute package, but the question of what he was doing in Spain popped up. "I was trying to get an impression of a country that wasn't too self-consciously aware of the tourist. A photographer has to avoid the kind of excitement which is drummed up just for the foreigners, and he must seek out genuine color."

"How many other countries have you been to recently?"

"Seven to South America, three or four in the Far East. Then I spent four years in the Near East as a construction machinist during the war. As a matter of fact, I got drafted while I was building refineries for the Persian Gulf Command. I spent my part of the war in the Merchant Marine, mainly on the Murmansk run—I made that one three times and had one run to Normandie."

When the war ended, he decided that resuming his career as a desert machinist would mean "too much hard work. Besides, I'd seen a lot of things in the Sudan and the Near East and I regretted the fact that I had no way to record them."

So he learned how to record them at the New York School of Modern Photography where his brother Dick, himself just out of the Air Force, joined him in the same pursuit. Dick turned to fashion work and other urban subjects (see *The Formal Touch*, pages 130-131) but Wally typically began his new career by photographing some Jewish refugees he was helping to smuggle into Palestine. The effort landed him in a British jail but the pictures landed in some well-circulated magazines and his career was launched. Since then he has been a full-fledged professional and a regular Esquire contributor.

His jobs for Esky have ranged from prize fighters at Stillman's to travel pages from Chile. His latest effort on Spain (pages 113-117) was particularly satisfying for him. "As I said, Spain isn't used to tourists and when I saw something I knew it was really native. Like those Spanish dancers. They drove me nuts.

"The bullfight picture was interesting too, and tough to get because there just isn't any spot in the ring where the bull has to be killed. You've got to run around and hope you're in the right spot. So I used a 35mm candid instead of the cumbersome 8 x 10. You're liable to lose a little picture clarity but you more than make up for that by getting away from the lack of movement and fixity of point of view the other camera gave you."

What was he planning next?

"I'm going to the Scandinavian countries as a correspondent to cover NATO maneuvers. Then I'll take some travel shots for Esky."

We allowed as how that sounded like a good trip. Besides, we think it's nice for a young guy to get away once in a while. #

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THE SOUND AND THE FURY

Around the Quad

The scarlet waistcoat and Deerstalker hat in September's *Esquire Predicts for the Class of '54* are absolutely terrific.

FRED WILKINSON
Philadelphia, Pa.

* * *

The Deerstalker hat is fine for British detectives, but let's keep it off the campus.

RANSOM BILLINGS
Boston, Mass.

* * *

Regarding the Deerstalker, it's nice, but which way does it go?

JACK BRENNAHAN
East Lansing, Mich.

A Note on "Life" and the Old Esquire

Names leave me, but I never forget a face or a marlin. Not when Old Man Hemingway depicts them. That strange hypnosis of his prose—sharp and pure and immaculate as gable shadows in the bright sunlight of a morning after frost—was still there in *The Old Man and the Sea*. But something kept besieging my attention. "He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream . . ." Now where had I seen just such an old man as that before? where marlin like that—"silver in the sun," with stripes "a light lavender" and straining the line "so taut that beads of water were jumping from it"?

The answer seemed most likely to be in one of those early Esquires containing as they did so many shapes of things to come. I leapt out of bed for my *Bedside Esquire* (which happened to be not at my bedside but on the hatrack). This had been my eighty-fourth day without luck of any kind, but the book opened as if of itself to *On the Blue Water* (Hemingway, Esquire, April 1936). Ah. Maybe here. My eyes caught the words "... you are fastened to the fish as much as he is fastened to you ..." They were not too unlike "... is he bringing me in or am I bringing him in?" There were clusters of other similar echoes. And then my eyes fell upon those two remarkable paragraphs starting at the bottom of page 475. Ay!

"Carlos, our Cuban mate, who is fifty-three years old and has been fishing for marlin since he went in the bow of a skiff with his father when he was seven [Sure the boy!] was fishing drifting deep one time when he hooked a white marlin. The fish jumped twice and then sounded and when he sounded suddenly Carlos felt a great weight and he could not hold the line which went out and down and down irresistibly until the fish had taken out over a hundred and fifty fathoms. Carlos says it felt as heavy and solid as though he were hooked to the bottom of the sea. Then suddenly the strain was loosened but he could feel the weight of his original fish and pulled it up stone dead. Some toothless fish like a swordfish or marlin had closed its jaws across the middle of the eighty pound white marlin and squeezed it and held it so that every bit of the insides of the fish had been crushed out while the huge fish moved off with the eighty-pound fish in its mouth. Finally it let go. What size of a fish would that be? I thought it might be a giant squid but Carlos said there were no sucker marks on the fish and that it showed plainly the shape of the marlin's mouth where he had crushed it.

"Another time an old man fishing alone in a skiff out of Cabanas [Ay ay!] hooked a great marlin that, on the heavy sashcord handline, pulled the skiff far out to sea. Two days later the old man was picked up by fishermen sixty miles to the eastward, the head and forward part of the marlin lashed alongside. What was left of the fish, less than half, weighed eight hundred pounds. The old man had stayed with him a day, a night, a day and another night while the fish swam deep and pulled the boat. When he had come up the old man had pulled the boat up on him and harpooned him. Lashed alongside the sharks had hit him and the old man fought them out alone in the Gulf Stream in a skiff, clubbing them, stabbing at them, lunging at them with an oar until he was exhausted and the sharks had eaten all they could hold. He was crying in the boat when the fishermen picked him up, half crazy from his loss, and the sharks were still circling the boat."

Right there is the complete foetus of *The Old Man and the Sea*! (The germ of a novel incidentally seems to share certain operational behavior with the spirochete: first the mild premonitory showing, then, if there is no early "treatment," a long period of latency, then the full accumulated attack.) Right there is indubitably the factual seed.

If with a slight proviso. Carlos (of fact) says "Ay he could jump!" Santiago says, "Ay" when he sees the first of the two sharks. "There is no translation for this word," Hemingway adds, "and perhaps it is just a noise such as a man might make involuntarily, feeling the nail go through his hands and into the wood." And the old man of fact "was crying in the boat . . . half crazy from his loss." Santiago lugs his mast home, falling under it on the way in an attitude of crucifixion—but he will fasten it to his skiff once more when the salt of the sea has finished its cure of his wounded hands. The Old Man (which Old Man?—or are *all* of them, texturally, one and the same? Suit yourself. As I say, names leave me) has indeed "aged." But in the distiller's sense of the word. Truly.

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(*Continued on page 233*)

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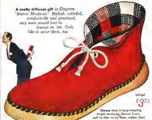

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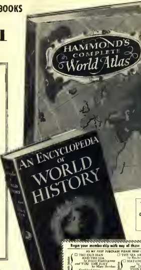

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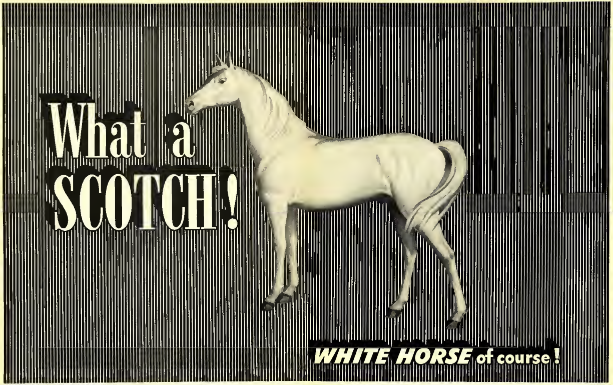
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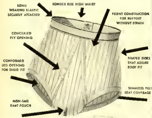
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LONGER RISE HIGH WAIST
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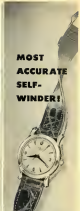
Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Linked to golfing needs Here's a handful of golf balls enough to keep the 18-holer in your house well stocked for the season. They come in a sturdy box good for storing the balls or for after use $12 complete by Acushnet and are available at pro shops

Palatable pleasantries Vinegar spices in cabinet $19.75, House of Herbs Salisbury Conn smoked turkey 10-20 lbs $1.75 lb Hickory Valley Stroudsburg Pa aged rich fruitcake $5.25 (3 lbs), The Kahils Mt Tremper N Y , 5 lbs cheese, Swiss Colony, Monroe Wis

For coat pocket or desk top ASR's dagger lighter $19.95 Elgin American's silver cigarette case, $30*, Zippo pocket lighter $4.75, gold cigarette holder $12 cigar holder $64.80 Alfred Dunhill 620 5th Ave ; Buxton's wallet, $12, Ronson Pistolighter, $10.50

MOST ACCURATE SELF-WINDER!



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SET NO 1—Shave Lotion and Cologne 4 oz. of each in colorful, sports print bottles. Gift boxed $3.00

SET NO 15—Shave Lotion and Cologne, 4 oz., and Talc, 2½ oz. for use after shave or shower $4.25

SET NO 2— Shave Lotion, 4 oz., and Talc, 2½ oz. Perfect for electric shavers. $2.75

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Sizes 9 to 19 and 10 to 20

She'll be pretty as a picture no matter how she wears this dashing new duster because inside-out is right-side-out! **It's completely reversible!** Even has two patch pockets on each side . . . tricky double-duty buttons . . . and turn-up cuffs which add gay contrast no matter which side is up. One side is quilted (with NYLON thread); one side is not. Both are silky-smooth acetate crepe that's color-fast will not shrink! And she'll adore the comly Dolman sleeves, smart roll collar!

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Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Wherever she goes Harriet Hubbard Ayer's red plastic train case fitted with cosmetics, $18; three scarves from Glentex—Paisley, Ocelot and Matador patterns—$3 through $5, and Gold Seal Importers' leather handbag imported from Florence, Italy, $35*

Desk decor Drop-leaf desk in blond mahogany with frame of aluminum tubing, $248.20, and to go with it, muslin-covered foam-rubber chair, $57.80; desk lamp of white brass with Plexiglas diffuser, $23.50, all from Euster Associates, 104 E. 28th Street

Purse by Deitsch, $30; D'Orsay Intoxication, $18.50*; scarves $1.25, $3.50, B. Winston; watch ring scarf $43.45, Lockhart's Coro bracelet, $1; lapel watch, $65.45, Mendesolle; Trifari pin, earrings, $47.70*; bracelet, $10; La Vista compacts by Wadsworth, Volupte, $30, $10*

Arden's My Love, $32.50*; Dana's Tabu, $60*; Guerlain's Shalimar, $45*; Anjou's Apropos, $4.20; Bourjois' Evening in Paris cologne, $1.50*; Chanel No. 5, $60*; Patou's Moment Supreme, $30*; Montell's Gigolo, $50; scarf, $1.25; Britt Winston, 29 E. 48th Street

Carryables for a woman on her way Zipper plaid overnight case by U.S. Luggage, $24*; Koro's alligator shoulder bag, $165*; Coblentz suede bag, $35*; Harriet Hubbard Ayer's cowhide madman's pouch purse, $21.40; Christmas balls, $3.15 ea., Hammacher Schlemmer

Fragrant presence Charbert's Breathlessset, $5*; Helena Rubinstein's Command Performance, $45.00*; Schiaparelli's Shocking, $42.30*; Houbigant's Le Parfum Idéal, $20*; Prince Matchabelli's Stradivari perfume, $30, and Hattie Carnegie's Carte Blanche, $25

Before dinner [illegible] delightfully [illegible] Cointreau's dry [illegible]

After dinner Cointreau [illegible] the perfect liqueur with [illegible]

Use Cointreau on your favorite fruit [illegible] and enjoy the superb [illegible] taste that Cointreau lends to all desserts

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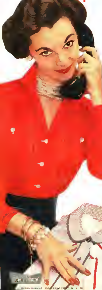


P.S. *this smug bird*
is really no genius for
all the lady's love-light.
All he did was tell
her dress size to
the salesgirl of the
Ship'n Shore blouse
department. And about
ten bucks bought three
of the smartest shirts
he (or you!) could find.
2.98 to **3.98** *each*

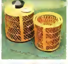
Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Executive's at-home desk. Russet top-grain leather desk blotter inset with tiles depicting old automobiles, perpetual calendar, $14.95; triangular basket for letters, also leather, $10.95, and matching cigarette box, $8.95; all made by American Binder Co.

Casual wear. For men at ease, a pair of grey Palm Beach slacks turned out in an attractive Java weave, $10.95, and beside them, a soft and well-cut sport shirt by Cooper, made of acetate and rayon fabric, and patterned in a tasteful masculine check, for $4.95.

I got the horse right here. These three natty little rail-birds may be getting you the horse or giving you the bird. Whatever their purpose, the 3 black crows dressed like race-track touts will make a fun present for any recipient. $11.95 for three. Brett Winston.

Triple play. Three nested baskets that offer convenient storage space right side up. When they're inverted, they become incidental tables, $25, from Mayhew, 603 Madison Ave.; ceramic cigarette cup, $3.50, ash trays, $15 (stone-ware) and $4, Bella La Vista.



Bar accessories. Tortoise shell bar kit with mirrored interior including a flask and three glasses, $41.95, from Hammacher Schlemmer; a four-piece bar set in a black case, $53.75, and three bottle-openers from $3.70 to $14.15, from Georg Jensen, 667 5th Ave.

Cocktail time. Crystal Martini pitcher that will hold 36 ounces and 4-oz. glasses to match, all in a lion-rampant motif, $30 complete, Black, Starr & Gorham, 48th and 5th Ave.; set on steel mesh tray, 14"x24", $8.95, New Dimensions, 130 W. 53rd Street.

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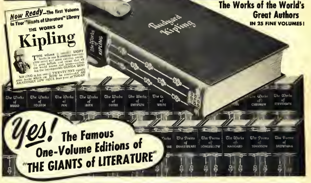

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Pipe-smoker's delight Two packages of tobacco, one by Walnut and one by Sir Walter Raleigh, and three pipes designed along rugged lines: ring-nosed bull and bulldog, both hand-carved and of imported briar $5 each, and Kaywoodie's imported briar pipe, $5

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Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Typed to fit Christmas giving.* Royal's portable typewriter, grey with plastic keys, magic margin and "touch control" features, $103.58. Rooy portable imported from France comes with leather case, $79.35 at Hammacher Schlemmer, 145 East 57th St.

Above—*Man's choice.* Dale's Luggage's oversized attaché case of top-grain hand-buffered tan cowhide with brass fittings and keyless lock, $21 and a man's 100% worsted gabardine coat that is water-repellent for all-weather wear made by Alligator, $39.75

Right—*Compact for convenience.* Built for good television viewing in table-top space, Motorola's TV set, decor-wise, will fit into living room or playroom. It has 20-inch screen and three-switch position mechanism and comes in a case of brown leatherette. AC, $249.95

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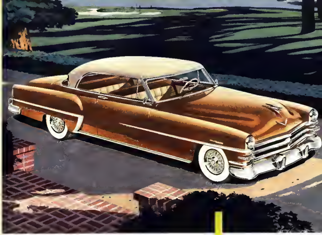
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[illegible]

Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

[illegible]: A professional oil-painting set which consists of fifteen tubes of paint—all different colors—plus five selected brushes, a pallet and two canvases, all in an attractive imitation alligator case, $22.50, from Polk Hobbies, 314 Fifth Avenue

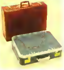
For buffet and coffee: A skillfully wrought iron candelabra that stands 13" high, $6.50, Bruneau, 998 First Avenue; white ceramic sculptured bowl, $12.50; glazed green-and-blue tinted ceramic ash tray, $15; a bright ceramic ash tray, $1, from Idella La Vista

Something bright for the boys: Wrist watch by Gruen, seventeen jewels, and an alligator strap, $200.00; at its left, natural gold watch by Hamilton, $200.00; an expansion identification bracelet, $10.00; and a snake key chain in gleaming gold made by Forstner, $11.25

Accents for evening wear: Evans Case carryall of two-tone metal, $33.50*; mother-of-pearl carryall, jeweled inset by Elgin American, $60*; hand-wrought sterling silver necklace, $75; ceramic compact, $17.50, Idella La Vista; Dorothy Gray's Savoir Faire perfume, $13*

Gifts for guests: [illegible] 24-inch rugged vinyl plastic [illegible] suitcase holds two suits, $25.00; U. S. Trunk's sturdy molded traveling case for a woman is made with three-ply veneer, satin finish, and has a waterproof detachable zipper pocket, sells for $14.95*

[illegible]: This hand-beaded evening bag was imported into this country by Hold Seal Importers, $110.08; off-the-shoulder, hand-crocheted woolen sweater by Susan Levant, $61.29; a sparkling rhinestone compact that comes with case by Elgin American, $20*



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The sweetest note after coffee . . . after dinner . . . the one and only Bénédictine! Enjoyed either of these two ways: The incomparable Liqueur by itself, or B and B (Bénédictine and Brandy) bottled at the abbey in Fécamp, France. Bottles in colorful gift boxes. Half bottles also available. 86 proof

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A chorus of approval invariably greets this superb, world famous Spanish Sherry. Neither too dry nor too sweet, but mellow and nutty. A Gift of real distinction, each bottle in a distinctive cloth sack. Also available in magnums (at double the price, of course)

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As healthy as they're handsome

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Even if you couldn't tell a woodcock from a woodchuck,
you'll want this good-looking Dobbs. It comes in glowing outdoor
colors, is smartly banded, and has a distinctive rib-stitched brim.
The Gamebird is loaded with individuality,
and there's no limit to its wearability and comfort.

In glove suede finish $15 and $20
In smooth finish $12.50 and $15
At fine stores everywhere

DOBBS HATS, NEW YORK'S LEADING HATTER, PARK AVENUE AT THE WALDORF, NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Cruise cue.* Whether he fishes or just likes to get out on the water he should go overboard for Mercury's outboard motor for small cruisers 10 horsepower, safety clutch, will propel a boat up to 30 miles per hour. $440.50, Wheels Inc., 222 West 55th St.

Above—*Well-turned accessories.* Belt by A. Stein in turftan calfskin white nylon stitching $3.50, Koothe's suspenders $3.50 Exeter cashmere-nylon socks grey and white $1.95 border-stripe handkerchief $3.50 McCutcheon, 49th St., 5th Ave ; A. Stein garters $1

Right—*The sporting touch.* A pair of gifts to be worn in casual comfort—Los Angeles Sportogs' water-repellent jacket of suede leather $49.50, sleeveless sweater of brown and natural 2-ply intarsia cashmere wool lightweight but warm $29.95, Berheard Altmann

the Bass National Tempo

Beginner or expert your best bet is the new Bass "National Tempo", built on a completely new and improved last, created in the boot for extra Notch Top pattern. Look at these features. Firm high-riding ankle support • Rubber laced snow excluders for extra tension and comfort • Deep notched lace row for unhindered vorlage • Snug-fit heel • Foam rubber linings • Steel ankle stays • Heavy steel shanked downhill bottoms • V strap. For men and women. There's a Bass Boot for Every Skiing Purpose

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Shimmering Luxury for Leisure Moments!

Wear it 3 glamorous ways—with or without belt . . or belted in front with a swingback.

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The most feminine duster of the season! It falls in soft romantic folds from an all-around quilted yoke . . . has quilted pockets and quilted winged cuffs! She'll enjoy TV reading, or just lounging twice as much wrapped in the caressing softness of this wonderful fabric. (Takes but a minute to launder . . . never needs ironing!) Colors: Coral or navy. Sizes: 9 to 19 and 10 to 20

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Gift Boxed

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6th Ave at 14th St., N. Y. 11

Please send me the following items.
Add 31c to each item for postage and handling

Item	Quantity	Size	Color	2nd Color Choice
Nylon Acetate Crepe Duster $7.99				
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Save C.O.D. charges by sending check or money order
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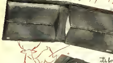
A ~~Merry~~ MEEKER Christmas To All!

Every man on your list will be happy to receive this smart MEEKER Billfold and Key Case Set, in a beautiful, satin-lined gift box Both Billfold and Key Case have distinctive Hand-laced edges and Hand-tooled design. Expertly fashioned in handsome Smooth Calfskin. As a gift it's tops

ideal gifts for those in the service

Here's the famous MEEKER 340 Billfold—with *maximum capacity* but *minimum bulk* Has Removable Pass Case that holds 8 cards, photos etc Streamlined in many fine, genuine leathers.



It's for Her—this latest MEEKER Billfold creation, with a beautiful rose design that's actually *hand painted*! Roomy Removable Pass Case and gusset coin purse In either hand-colored brown Calfskin or Steerhide She'll love it!

various prices at dealers everywhere

MEEKER made Fine Leather Goods

THE MEEKER COMPANY, Joplin, Mo. New York: 347 Fifth Ave., Chicago: 36 S State St

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Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Against the chill* Casual clothes for man at rest—Brentwood's button-front 100% wool pullover sweater leather buttons, $11 and blue and white miniature tartan sports shirt of English tweed-in-cotton material, $10 made by Hathaway Shirt Company

Above—*Tennis toggery* White V-necked cable stitch all-wool sweater with blue and red trim $11.75, and tennis racquet $17.50 both at A G Spalding & Bros, 518 Fifth Ave., Martex's bath-sized terry-cloth towel in brown and white houndstooth pattern, about $3

Right—*Ice-bound wearables* To keep him going while he executes figure eights—heavy navy blue sweater of 100% wool $11 95 high black leather figure skates $23, woolen visor cap in a swirling-checkered design red green white $1.75, Alex Taylor, 22 E 42nd St

---

MAN TO MAN, THE GOOD WORD GETS AROUND!

You ought to try JACK "ON THE ROCKS"

See for yourself how smooth a whiskey can be. Pour two ounces of Jack Daniel's over ice and SIP it Add a twist of lemon peel or a drop of bitters if you wish—but you really won't need either with "Jack"—the rare old sippin' whiskey from "the hollow" in Tennessee!

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JACK DANIEL DISTILLERY
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This NEW $20 set of Norman Rockwell paintings is YOURS

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if you obtain a Trial Membership in The Heritage Club *now*

BECAUSE we are offering you a $20 set of Norman Rockwell's paintings as an inducement to obtain a Trial Membership in The Heritage Club *at this time*, we had better tell you something about them

In the first place, they are *not* the original paintings in oil! If you are in position to pay several thousands of dollars to obtain one of Norman Rockwell's original oils (and if you know where one *could* be obtained) then you will not want these facsimiles.

For they are facsimiles. Yet we will wager one good sixty-cent dollar that, even after examining them you wouldn't recognize them as such if we didn't tell you, and we will wager two good sixty-cent dollars that none of your friends will recognize them as such if you should hang them (the facsimiles!) on your wall

They are created by several unusual processes They are in full color; and they are on heavy board-canvasses such as oil painters use; and their surfaces are *moulded* so that you can feel the actual brush-strokes with your fingers

Facsimiles have been created in this fashion before, of some of Norman Rockwell's famous paintings notably his paintings of The Four Freedoms, the facsimiles of which have had so extraordinary a sale in the shops. We would present *those* to you, if we could! But we can't, for the right to reproduce them doesn't belong to us However, we do have the right to reproduce Norman Rockwell's paintings made to illustrate *Huckleberry Finn* for they were made for the now famous edition published by The Heritage Press.

WE HAVE NOW taken three of them (the original oils are in the possession of the Mark Twain Museum) and have created facsimiles which are four times larger than the plates in the published book. Each of them is twelve inches across by sixteen inches long Each of them is made to become a decoration on your wall of which you will be continuously proud. Each will be sold in the shops for $6 95, the set of three, for $20

But we will give you a complete set free, GRATUIT, *Umsonst* GRATIS—if you obtain a Trial Membership in The Heritage Club at this time. Why?

WELL, IN THE FIRST PLACE, we have persuaded the mills which produce our fine papers to increase their allotment to us—with the result that, of six of our recent publications, we have obtained from the printers about a thousand extra copies. So in the second place, we have decided to take in one thousand new members to *try* the Club out for just six books.

But we want to enroll this limited number of people with an even more limited expenditure upon expensive advertisements such as this one! We want to cut down our advertising expenditure by offering this irresistible inducement to you, to become one of these new members If you do, you will during the coming six months obtain six beautiful, *beautiful* books—at the same price as ordinary rental library fiction

You will obtain a copy of *The Pilgrim's Progress* with the newly-discovered paintings of William Blake reproduced in full color; and *The Book of Ruth* illustrated with the magnificent miniatures-in-color by Arthur Szyk, and *Great Expectations* illustrated by the English painter Edward Ardizzone, and *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* illustrated with gravures by Zhenya Gay and *The Way of All Flesh* and *The Sketch-Book of Geoffrey Crayon* illustrated by Gordon Ross.

Or, if any of these books should not be of interest to you, you may choose substitutions out of a long list of other Heritage books-in print. Then, after the trial period, you can decide whether you want to continue your own membership. Obviously, we think you will!

FOR THE MEMBERS of The Heritage Club regularly come into possession of those classics which are our heritage from the past, in editions which will be the heritage of the future. Yet each of these books—because of the cooperative nature of the Club's system—costs each member only $3.65! or *only $3 28* if payment is made in advance!

A Prospectus is now ready. You are invited to send for a copy One of the remaining Trial Memberships will then be reserved for you until you have had time to study it—and your reservation will also be entered, for the complete set of Norman Rockwell *Huckleberry Finn* facsimiles which will be yours Never in the history of book publishing has a greater bargain been offered to wise buyers of books The coupon below enables you to put this statement to the test

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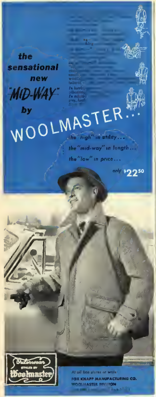
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Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Along Christmas-gifting lines* Hickok's midnight blue suspenders with leather tabs, $2.50, and a linen and cotton handkerchief that was made in Madeira. The initials are hand-embroidered, the handkerchief itself is twenty inches square $2.30 by Appleton

Above—*Decorator's delight* For the man who prefers to finish his own wood CBS-Columbia's "Decorator" television receiver with 20-inch screen, 21 tubes comes in a cabinet of selected mahogany veneer sanded and ready for lacquering, enameling or staining, $279.95

Right—*Utensil trends* Four aluminum containers for storing food in the refrigerator $2 the set; wood-handled knife sharpener, $2.15; sauce and butter warmer wick burner $4.20, pancake flipper turns flapjack with flick of handle $2 all at Lewis & Conger

Next to a caress you'll like this best!
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Only Oster has Suspended Motor Action that delivers gentle rotating patting (Swedish type) massage movements to the fingers—without effort on your part. A wonder-worker for scalp, face or any part of the body that needs stimulation or relaxation. Try it once—you'll use it endlessly. An Oster for Christmas makes an out of the ordinary and useful gift for friends, relatives or yourself. See your dealer, or send coupon.

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The Pioneer "Jockey Club" set—smartly styled jewelry buckle and handsome cowhide belt in tri tone Belmont finish $5

Tickle his fancy!

... with this handsome matching wallet and key case set. Imported goatskin, removable pass case with inside zipper. Three smart shades Gift-boxed, $5, *plus tax*

Steer straight to his heart! Give him Pioneer's "Antique Mobiles"—authentic hand wrought miniatures. Links, $3.50, *plus tax* Tie-bar, $2.50, *plus tax.*

BELTS BRACES GARTERS WALLETS JEWELRY LEATHER ACCESSORIES • PIONEER DARBY, PA.

Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

[illegible] Modern brass-base lamp with straw and fiberglas shades $29.95, Lampland, 579 Ave. of the Ams.; ornamental fish of Macawer ebony for cabinet or table $6, Hansen 978 1st Ave.; ceramic ash tray, Idella La Vista; enamel ash tray, Georg Jensen, $6

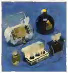
From husbands to wives: Leather and wicker sewing basket including thread in an assortment of colors, scissors and needles by Easway, about $37; two pairs 15-denier nylons that come packaged with ¼ dram of Lanvin perfume, $3.90, I. Magnin, San Francisco

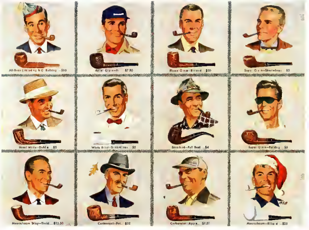
Sweater girl: Finely knit, well-fitted twin sweaters by Tish-U-Knit, charcoal grey and white, 100% wool in shell-knit pattern, styled as short-sleeved cardigan, $5.98 and short-sleeved turtle-neck pullover, $4.98, from Famous Fashions, 419 Madison Ave.

Boudoir finds: Westinghouse's amazing electric sheets that are washable, and have dual-control dials for varying sleeping temperatures, in AC only, $39.95; upper right—compartmented jewel box beneath it, Gorham's three-piece silver dresser set, $57.50

Perfumes for a lady's preference: Coty's lucite carryall contains lipstick, compact, perfume, chiffon handkerchief, $12.50*; Lanvin's 16-oz. Arpege, $338.25; Fussy's Charme Rose, $8 oz.; Marcel Rochas' perfume trio, $22.50*; Le[illegible]'s D[illegible] Brilliance, $75*

Leather gifts that will travel: Sancha set in red cowhide case, $9.50, Hammacher Schlemmer; Presentation's pigskin wallet for a woman, $6, and red morocco clip billfold, $3.66, St. Thomas; red morocco cigarette case, $2.25, and a La Cross manicure kit, $2.05





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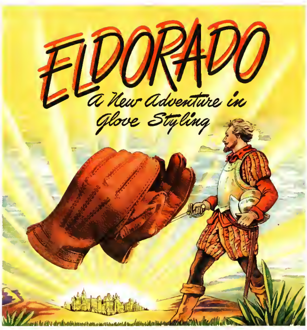
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GATES Swagger Size GLOVES

GATES-MILLS, INC., Johnstown, New York.

Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Bagged for a hunter* Lightweight canvas and wood carrying case with runner base holds 3 bushels, $16 34 W. T Lane & Bros Inc., Poughkeepsie N Y shotgun with automatic bar trigger safety, stock of walnut wood $125 Godfrey Importers Corp. 277 Broadway

Above—*Take-alongs* Motorola's portable radio, AC-DC or battery in carrying case with over-the-shoulder strap, $34 95 complete, slate blue red and grey plaid scarf of Australian zephyr wool lightweight. 56" long and 16" wide, made in France by Lesur, $19 50

Right—*Items for the ladies* Corday's Toujours Toi perfume, $35* an oz reversible wool jersey head scarf green calico-dot silk lining $3 matching ascot $2, Vera 417 5th Ave black calfskin contour belt cigarette lighter buckle $10 Amy Abbott 344 West 52nd

Warmth and Comfort—in this handsome "DORMS" SWEATER by HIGHLAND

A 100% pure worsted baby shaker sweater durably made of 3 ply construction set in double welt pockets for double wear.

19 Handsome college colors

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Ever try to figure out why men always hope for a boy? Well, just don't. A growing boy can drive his father wild one minute ... and yet, the next minute the old man's ready to give him the world with a set of Lionel Trains and tracks around it. Yep, men and boys stick together, 'specially 'round Christmas when many a life-long friendship begins over a whistle-blowin', smoke-puffin', track-speedin', Lionel railroad system The dad who never forgets he was a boy himself..... knows a Christmas like that is half the fun of being a boy ...

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Official Engineer's Cap in striped denim, plus 5 R R. insignia emblems to wear on it, *together with Catalog Rule Book and Building Kit* all for only 50¢!

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Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Pocket presents* Shaded brown calfskin billfold one piece stitchless construction with removable pass case, secret pocket $12 by Meeker. Forstner's checkered watch band, gold filled, $49; and silver key ring set with semiprecious stone, $7.50* by Kmze

Above—*Radio-active* For those who'd rather listen RCA's table model AM-FM radio has phonojack for record-changer plug-in, 5" speaker plastic cabinet $79.50; alarm-clock radio by Capehart, wakes you with music or alarm, light grey plastic casing $49.95

Right—*Get out in the garden* Disston's 24-tine lawn rake is made of hardened and tempered spring steel with hardwood handle $3.60; four-piece garden set by Wiss includes hedge and grass clippers, pruning shears and heavy gardening gloves $9.50 complete

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Here is the heart and soul of Christmas in the world's most wonderful story come to vivid life! You'll meet that squeezing, grasping old sinner, Ebenezer Scrooge. You'll pity Bob Cratchit and the crippled Tiny Tim. And then you'll see the mean and miserly Scrooge regenerated by the ghostly spirits ... his complete surrender to the greatest spirit of all, the spirit of Christmas. You'll have a happier Yuletide with this joyous, heart-warming home movie!

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Superb under-water photography provides a thrilling adventure [illegible] of daring men equipped with the Aqua-lung roving the floor of the ocean and prying into the sunken hulls of a [illegible]. They risk their lives [illegible] and shattered cargo holds amid the sands of startled fish. An enthralling home movie!

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Hopalong Cassidy in "Trail Dust" [illegible]					
CARTOONS					
Woody Woodpecker in "Solid Ivory" Mischief mix-up between Woody and a Wally Walrus!					
Woody Woodpecker in The Giant Killer Woody buys magic bean and goofs the giant!					

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There's *fabric magic*

in this prize-winning gift jacket!

For the head man on your Christmas list, here's a jacket so *deluxe, so distinguished* that it recently won California's top sportswear award. Tailored of luxurious JUILLCORD, jewel of all corduroys, by quality-famous BLOCK. Featuring magic radiance of color, supple softness and amazing wrinkle resistance... achieved by JUILLCORD'S unique vat dyed blend of super fine combed cotton and Avisco rayan. See this outstanding gift fashion at Scruggs-Vandervoort Barney, St. Louis and The Emporium, San Francisco. For other stores, write A. D. Juilliard & Co., Inc., 40 West 40th Street, New York.

Look for this label

because...

"fine fabrics are the foundation of fashion"

Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Figured for fun in one fashion.* Two-piece black and white lounging outfit of satin cut in mandarin style. The jacket is lined with black satin, appliqued with dragons, has a deep pocket. The set comes gift-boxed. $10.99 at Jonas Shoppe, 62 West 14th St.

Above—*Family presentation.* Ice cream maker that mixes up enough at one time—two to four quarts—to keep even the most avid fan at your house eating contentedly for hours. The stirring is done electrically; the machine operates on AC only. $28.97 at Lewis & Conger.

Right—*Grounds for play.* Parker Brothers' Star Reporter should please easy-chair newshounds. $2.50. Go to the Head of the Class incorporates 792 questions and answers for the quiz-minded; may be played by two to nine people. $2.25 by the Milton Bradley Company.

---

it does your heart good

TO RELAX COMPLETELY IN A

BERK-LOCK

3 in 1 Chair

Every Body deserves a BERK-LOCK or BERK-LINER. At the flick of a finger you can rock, lounge or recline in the BERK-LOCK. Lean back in the BERK-LINER... your feet are lifted from the floor... you are supported from head to toe with-

or a BERK-LINER

out any physical strain. Both chairs cradle your body, relax ragged nerves, soothe muscles for blissful hours of comforting leisure. They are available in durable fabric or plastic upholstery and are surprisingly budget priced. Write for literature and name of dealer nearest you.

BECOMES A LOUNGE CHAIR IN UPRIGHT POSITION

THE BERKLINE CORPORATION, MORRISTOWN, TENNESSEE

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a *light, mild* Scotch

preferred by generations of connoisseurs – "Quality Tells!"

Imported by PARK & TILFORD DISTILLERS CORP., NEW YORK • BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY • 86.8 PROOF

for your dears young and old

Jerks Socks®

the kind that STAY UP

Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Some fashion notables for the man: Paisley design silk muffler, $15 from Brooks Brothers, 346 Madison Ave.; brown snap-brim felt hat with grey band (or a hat gift certificate) Dobbs at the Waldorf-Astoria; mocha gloves from Mark Cross, 55th Street and Fifth Avenue

The "tie-for Christmas" theme: The blue Oxford shirt with old-faithful button-down collar, $3.95, backs up the printed foulard tie $2.50, both Van Heusen; the spaced figured foulard, $2.50, Beau Brummell; pleated blue and white tie by Wembley, also $2.50

New slants on old standbys: The pure silk robe is fully lined, $13, at Di Teri, 480 Park Ave.; the silk pajamas have piped edges in contrasting color, $27.50, De Pinna, Fifth Ave. and 52nd St.; the patent-leather-trim slippers $13.50, Church, 428 Madison Ave.

[illegible] knitted [illegible]: Diagonal [illegible] designs in three tones are set off by natural color in this pure cashmere pullover sweater, $29.95 Bernhard Altmann; Glove-craft's stadium deerskin slip-on gloves with knitted wool lining and turned-back cuffs, $12.50

Styled for sportsmen: The crest patterns distinguish the white wool Catalina pullover sweater with turtle neck, $14.95, fine for skiing and for your other favorite winter sports. Shepherd-check worsted Daks slacks $32.50 with adjustable tabs on each side

Novel ideas in knitwear: Knitted cotton pullover shirt with new cross stripes on dark blue background, long sleeves, $4.95 by Marlboro; colorful wool socks, soft leather soles, $3.95, are easy on the feet around the house on a cold winter's night, by Ripon

Give Him A REMINGTON

For a Merry Christmas and Happy Shaving

Perfect for the man on your gift list who has everything—*except a smile when he shaves!* It's *Practical*—he'll use it every day. It's *Economical*—modestly priced, no blades, no soap to buy. It's *Luxurious*—beautifully designed and handsomely gift packaged. It's *Safe*—no nicks, no cuts, no mess, no fuss. It's a *Time Saver*—men shave with it in less than half the time, wherever there's an electric outlet. It's The All New Remington 60 Electric Shaver, The Gift that spells *Shaving Happiness* every day!

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You may give a Remington with confidence—secure in the knowledge it's the shaver preferred by men throughout the world. See the Remington 60 today, on display at fine stores everywhere and at any of our 112 Nationwide Shaver Headquarters. It's easy to buy and fully guaranteed.

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Your Key to Holiday Hospitality

In Kentucky where host and guest know bourbon best, bonded OLD FITZGERALD is first for serving, first for sending. This year, heighten your Holiday Hospitality with the genial flavor of Kentucky's Favorite Bonded Bourbon, patiently made and oak-ripened in the genuine sour mash manner since 1870 Insist on it today . . . in distinguished Mansion Package.

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STITZEL WELLER DISTILLERY ESTAB. LOUISVILLE, KY., 1849 • KENTUCKY'S FAVORITE BONDED STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY—100 PROOF

Esquire's
CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Culinary artistry* Metal device that strings or shreds food, slices potatoes to chip dimensions, $29.95 Saladmaster Sales Inc., Dallas, Texas and Arvin's electric waffle iron of chrome-plated steel can be used for broiling and frying as well, AC only, $29.95

Above—*Modern knight on the town* To complement his stepping-out togs, patent-leather shoes, $20.50, white silk dress scarf, $12.50, full-fashioned black nylon socks, $1.50, silk cummerbund, $6.50, and black faille bow tie, $2.50, all at Finchley Inc., 564 Fifth Ave.

Right—*Letter lore* Two boxes of stationery for your favorite correspondent—left, a box of 75 single white sheets, 60 envelopes, right, Highland cabinet with 90 white, pastel pink and green sheets and 72 envelopes, $4 for each box, from Eaton Paper Corporation

---

You'll Look Right... You'll Feel Right! in a...
Monarch

Enjoy leisure hours! Wear Monarch's soft suedes . . . long wearing leathers . . . warm comfortable fabrics . . . wind and water resistant poplins For men and boys . . . at leading shops and department stores. 54th year. Monarch Mfg. Co., Dept. O, Milwaukee 2, Wis.

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★ read under a perfect bed light that's kind to your eyes
★ listen to glorious bedtime radio entertainment
Mitchell
Tubular lamp behind frosted lens provides restful high intensity light
Individual switches permit using radio and lamp separately or together as desired
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In all the world—no other radio like it

THE MITCHELL *Lullaby* famous BED LAMP-RADIO

The Smartest Bedtime Story Ever Told

Magnificent Reception—advanced Superheterodyne radio provides powerful, undistorted reception. Features clear, full, lifelike tone reproduced by latest type PM dynamic speaker. Built-in Air Magnet eliminates aerial or ground wires. Has automatic volume control. Covers complete broadcast band. Operates on AC or DC

Just imagine the marvelous convenience, comfort and enjoyment of having your bed lamp and radio in one attractive compact unit—within easy reach just above your head. Climb into bed with your favorite book or magazine—read under light that's kind to your eyes while your favorite radio program plays softly. Sleepy?—Just reach up—click—the light's out, the radio's silent and you're off to a good night's rest. Styled like a dream in gleaming plastic . . . compact . . . fits any bed. Just imagine—only $29.95 for a magnificent radio, a perfect bed lamp and a lifetime of *complete* luxurious bedtime entertainment! For more fun in bed—own a "LULLABY!"

A Perfect Bed Lamp—powerful tubular type lamp combined with a special frosted curved lens provides maximum reading ease and eye-comfort. **Beautiful**—in streamlined gleaming plastic. Available in a choice of deep-toned Mahogany or soft Ivory finish

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Enclosed please find ☐ Check ☐ Money Order. Send the LULLABY postpaid. I prefer ☐ Mahogany ($29.95) ☐ Ivory ($32.95).
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Whether for business or pleasure, pull the cork on more martini enjoyment than you have ever known . . . mix yours with Noilly Prat. Its unmatched flavor and bouquet make it first with those who want the finest.

NOILLY PRAT

French DRY Vermouth

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Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—Gifts for good grooming A cross-section of toiletries that are old standbys—Mennen's after-shave lotion $.59, Suave hair tonic for men $1, tube of Mennen shave cream $.63, and Gillette's safety razor that comes boxed with extra blades, $1, complete

Right—Fit for a man's foot L. B. Evans' burgundy lounging slippers for evening-at-home relaxation are hand-turned, made of kid leather, $7.95 and two pairs of Argyle socks in soft and bright shades of one hundred per cent wool $2.95 each by Interwoven

Above—Old smoothies Gourielli's Here's How trio $5.50; Vitalis hair tonic $1; Knize Ten Toilet water, $10*; Sportsman's deo, $2.15*; Shulton Old Spice soap $1.25, lotion $1.75*; Seaforth's deodorant, hair-groom, shave lotion in plastic bottles, zipper case, $4.95*

JOE'S PLACE* —a *very* portable bistro

Including all the characters, even to the shaggy dog. Plus Fiberglas insulated Polar-Pak which holds 5 trays of ice 12 to 24 hours; 4 13½-oz. anodized aluminum tumblers, bar glass, shaker, bar spoon and wire strainer (all of stainless steel); removable serving tray, ample room for 5 qt bottles. Alcohol and stain resistant. Double locks. At most Gift & Dept. Stores (Or order direct Dept. E. Add 3% if N. Y. C. delivery. We'll pay the postage . . . but no C.O.D.'s, Please.) **$37.50.** NO FED TAX

a product of creative house 417 east 54th street, new york 22.

Harmonized with a Golfer's Christmas

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS OR BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

The Wilson Humidor

One dozen Wilson K-28 Golf Balls, $12

or

The Wilson Six-Pak

One half-dozen Wilson K-28 Golf Balls, $6

(At price of balls only)

For a gift that always wins, count on the Wilson K-28 golf ball. Every golfer *knows* this great ball. It rates tops everywhere for click, distance, true flight, true roll and durability. In these handsome new 1952 Wilson utility containers you really have gifts you'll be *proud* to give. *The containers are included with the balls at no extra cost. You pay for the balls only.*

AT LEADING DEPARTMENT STORES
AND SPORTING GOODS STORES.

The Humidor

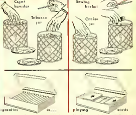
Handsome humidor style container with unique interior holding four 3-ball trays of Wilson K-28 golf balls. Choice of attractive burgundy, saddle tan or forest green leatherette. Pay regular price of balls only. Container included.

IT'S Wilson TODAY IN SPORTS EQUIPMENT

The Six-Pak

Smart looking case in burgundy leatherette. Interior of simulated walnut. Contains two 3-ball trays of Wilson K-28 golf balls. Regular price of balls only. Case costs nothing extra.

PERFECT FOR LATER USES



Wilson Sporting Goods Co., Chicago. Offices in New York, San Francisco and 26 other principal cities (A subsidiary of Wilson & Co., Inc.)

Heart-warming Present with a Cozy Future!

Quilted Launging Jacket and Pajama Set

3 Pieces
$10.99
Gorgeously Gift Boxed

Gorgeous acetate satin set to brighten her winter evenings! The beautifully quilted coachman jacket is cozily warm ... flattering as firelight — perfect for her leisure hours when the gang comes for a TV session. And she'll feel like the most pampered girl in town when she turns in for the night in the matching man-tailored acetate satin pajamas. Jacket is generously cut with smart turn-back cuffs, dashingly wide lapels and big patch pockets. Pajamas come in contrasting color to match the lining and lapels.

Use handy mail-order coupon. Orders filled the day received. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money instantly refunded.

COLORS
Black jacket with Aqua pajamas, or Black jacket with American Beauty Red pajamas.

SIZES
10-12 14-16-18-20
and
9-11-13 15 17 19

Joan Iris

Jonas SHOPPES Dept. 1 754
6th Ave. at 14th St. N. Y. 11

Please send me the following 3-Piece Quilted Lounging Jacket and Pajama Set at 10.99 per set plus 31c for postage and handling. Total $11.30

Quantity	Size	Color	2nd Color Choice

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Save C.O.D. charges by sending check or money order.
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A Wonderful Gift! Order By Mail!

For other wonderful Christmas Gift suggestions see pages 18, 24, 38, 100, 101

Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Signal accessories. Tie clip in ski motif inlaid with mother-of-pearl and to go with it gold and white cuff links in snowflake design. $5* the set by Swank, and Anson's silver-oxidized tie clip and matching cuff links in the shape of fish at $7.50 the set.

Masculine assemblage. Chelsea's clock-barometer set in bronze and brass finish $130. Parker Flameaire pocket lighter $14.50. Esquire's leather ash tray, $15, and lighter $10. Sheaffer snorkel fountain pen $22.50 and Parker "51" pen and pencil set $22.50.

For the boys. Handmade model of sailing ship $35, kit for car, $2.95, Polk's, 314 Fifth Avenue; labyrinth game $8, Boonmars. A. C. Gilbert's streamlined coach, $7.50. Vista Dome Pullman car $8.50. Lionel's Diesel switcher $25 and observation car, $9.95.

How to choose the right color hat

"**Perhaps** you don't realize it—but it's important to choose—and wear—the right color hat, as well as the right shape and the right style!

"**I'm** a hat salesman ... and I know the importance, for instance, of choosing a hat color to flatter your complexion. Take it from me ... if you're fair skinned, a neutral or dark shade hat is the perfect choice.

"**On** the other hand, if you're tanned or dark skinned a lighter shade will accentuate your tan, a medium shade will tone it down.

"**Be** sure, too, to choose a color that will go with your suit, coat and furnishings. For example, suits of grey, blue or oxford call for good looking pearl or smoke shades of grey, and brown, covert or green suits are complemented by hickory—a very popular color this year!

"**Notice** the hat colors on the opposite page. They're just a few of the dozens of different shades you can choose from at your Lee Hat dealer's! When you go to select your hat ... seek the advice of an experienced hat salesman. He'll be glad to recommend the perfect hat colors for your particular needs!"

Look to Lee...
for the newest in hats...
for every place and face

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the finer
moccasin
father
wants!

"Playboy"

Oldmaine Trotters

10.95 slightly higher Denver west

Every dad deserves the best in this handsewn-welted shoe he owns. glove-like leather with hand-whipped saddle, hand-sewn toe and sticker seams, wide under-rolled collar, and tension heel, rugged double flexible soles. It looks its extra quality!

Harvest Brown Antiqued only
Sizes 5 to 13—Widths AA to D
At leading stores everywhere or write Dept. E 12

OLD TOWN SHOE CO., 179 Lincoln Street
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Lee hats are shaped for you forever!

one quick flick does the trick!

Lee Trinity ... of luxurious, soft felt. Every one will notice the conservative good looks and the center pinch crown of your Lee Trinity. And, like all Lee Hats, it is DuPont "Aridex" treated for water repellency. Also in pre-shaped pinch front model. $10

Lee Handlee—crafted of finest fur, with rich-looking band detailed edge. $15

Lee Smartlee ... narrower brimmed, with exclusive comfort-cushion sweat band. $10

Lee Cameo ... light as a feather, with the smart new narrow bound brim-edge. $7.50

Look to Lee

You always look your best in a Lee ... for your Lee will always look as good as the day you bought it. Why? Because every pre-shaped Lee Hat is carefully manipulated into just the right shape ... and the smartest shape ... for you by the skilled stylists in the famous Lee workrooms. Yes, drop your Lee, bump it, no matter what you do to it ... it's back in perfect shape with just a flick of your finger ... because it's been shaped for you forever!

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America's First Gin*
is America's Best Gin!

BEST FOR MIXING - BEST STRAIGHT
BECAUSE IT'S THE GIN THAT
GIVES YOU All 4
★Quality ★Smoothness
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THE FLEISCHMANN DISTILLING CORPORATION, PEEKSKILL, N.Y.

Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Screened for living room: Capehart's *Monticello* console television set has 21-inch screen, bisque-finished cabinet, basketweave grille cloth; new chassis incorporates noise-killing area control, has convenient outlet for plugging in phonograph. $369.95

Good mixers. Electric Osterizer handles the most difficult of the drinkable concoctions, AC only, $44.95 Lewis & Conger, 45th Street and Avenue of the Americas; International Silver's Royal Danish four-piece bar set comes in a handsome leather case, $50

Music in the air. The V-M Corporation's three-speed phonograph faithfully reproduces the complete tonal range of any record, has a free-floating tone arm and a dual needle; 110-volt 60-cycle operation; records from RCA, Mercury, Decca, M-G-M

All in the game. Everything you need to play canasta, poker or bridge comes in the brown leather case by Esswry, about $50; poker-chip set with tan leather cover has levers so that the chips drop down singly as required, $27.50. Mark Cross, 5th Avenue at [illegible] Street

The shop for festive feasting: Carving board with chrome fixtures, devices to hold meat in place, $35 Lewis & Conger; holds smoked ham, $1.40 lb. (12 to 16 lbs.) The Forsts, Kingston, N.Y.; three-piece stag-handled carving set comes boxed, $25 Lewis & Conger

Editions for a man's library: Skira's *Spanish Painting* $17.50; Simon & Schuster's *Rodgers & Hart Songbook*, $7.50, *Fireside Songbook*, $5; Greystone Press *Bottoms Up* guide to liquor, $7.50; *Gun Digest*, edited by John T. Amber for the sportsman, only $2

MANWELL—brown scotch grain Wing Tip. A handsome shoe

STRATO-MOC—brown calf with sealed welt. Keeps out bad weather

STALWART—genuine Burgundy Shell Cordovan; plain toe and sealed welt. Wears almost indefinitely.

Who says Winterproof Shoes can't look dressy?

One fleeting glance at these clean-cut huskies provides the answer!

These hardy Bostonians *dote* on winter. Snow, sleet, rain—they take 'em in stride. Keep your feet snug and warm and dry. Make rubbers unnecessary.

One fitting and you'll agree. These are GREAT shoes—the kind a man is proud to wear on any occasion!

Now at your nearest Bostonian dealer's—awaiting your call!

Bostonians

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Greater comfort than you've ever known!

BELLS BELLS BELL'S!

Hear the mellow wedding bells,
Golden bells!
What a world of happiness
their harmony foretells!
—EDGAR ALLAN POE

BELLS' BELLS!
Sandy is taking the hunt.

THE GREAT BELL OF KYOTO
It rings in the flower season when all Japan is in a festive mood

QUEEN COW BELL
In India the cow bells are beautiful and the Queen cow of the herd walks to music wearing the most beautiful bell of all. *(From the Surou collection.)*

HINDU ELEPHANT BELL
Its melodic sound helps the mahout or driver locate his particular elephant. *(From the Surou collection.)*

[illegible]
Ceremonial idol, wired for sound,

Bonnie BELL'S of Scotland

When the bells ring . . .
or when the bell rings . . .
bring out your best, your *BELL'S!*
Sound whisky, full, round and mellow
. . . always a'peelin' . . . with soda,
water, straight or "on the rocks."

86 PROOF • Arthur Bell & Sons Ltd., Distillers Perth Scotland Established 1825 • C F Heublein & Bro., Inc., Hartford Conn., Sole Distributors for the U S A

Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Musical interlude.* Hawaiian electric guitar equipped with portable amplifier so you can take music wherever you go. $225 complete; and deluxe Islander ukulele with book of instructions (not shown) $6.95. Carl Fischer Musical Instrument Co., 105 E. 16th St.

Above—*College-room setting.* Laminated-wood, tilting book rack, $4.95, holds reading along masculine lines; Sylvania's electric clock-radio, stain-proof plastic case, $41.95; electric alarm clock, Plexiglas face, brass case, $35.40, Contemporary House, Dallas, Tex.

Right—*Easy does it.* Electric glass radiant heating platter keeps food hot to the moment of serving. 13" x 21" dimensions. AC or DC. $21.95. Carole Stupell, 507 Madison Ave.; Arvin's electric percolator brews coffee in about one minute, is of chrome-coated brass. $29.95

Make Your Gift EXCLUSIVE

America's smartest,
in luxurious leathers. For him,
Wilson's famous SER VUE, wafer thin.
For her the smart LIDO
with roomy change purse, removable
pass case. The most acceptable
and useful gifts you can choose.

SER VUE — in hazel or ginger saddle grained Pigskin. Suitable gift in extraction — $5.00

The patented SER VUE by Wilson. Pull tab and three denominations of bills face you for easy selection. Push back, and it folds sleek and compact.

LIDO — in lipstick red, forest green or navy blue. Smooth saddle brush Cowhide. Invisible stitch construction — $5.00

Other fine Wilson wallets—up to $100 at better stores

America's Smartest Personal Leather Goods

Wilson

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Boston 14, Massachusetts

Subject to tax.

Spruce 6-Piece Set . . . three cakes of soap, shave bowl, shaving lotion, shaving talcum . . . all as fresh as all outdoors.
$4.00 *plus tax*

Spruce 2-Piece Set . . . shaving lotion and cologne . . . the two together add up to the happiest face a shaver ever had.
$2.00 *plus tax*
The Shaving Lotion alone **$1.00** *plus tax*

Saddle Club 2-Piece Set shave soap and shave lotion . . . watch his beam when he gets this team.
$1.75 *plus tax*

Saddle Club 3-Piece Set . . . men who like action will like the smooth action of this shave soap, shave lotion, shave talcum
$2.50 *plus tax*

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spruce up the spirits
as well
as the
man

delicious

delectable

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12 delicious cordials
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Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Pictured for a photographer* Bolex H-16 movie camera that will take stereo lens as shown $715.50 complete Wollensak's 1½" telephoto F/1.5 lens in focusing mount $67.50 portable flash gun, AC only, $69.95 Willoughby's Camera Store 110 W 32nd St

Above—*Trim shape* Counselor bathroom scale all-steel construction has magnified dial so you can see numbers clearly from standing position $7.95. L'Orle's Polo Spur after-shave lotion $3.50; and Gourielli's Sport of Kings lotion in boot container, $1.50*

Right—*Leathered for wear* Pioneer's reversible belt calfskin on cowhide $3.50 leather belt by TexTan $2.50; Wiss manicure set (nail and cuticle scissors, clip file tweezers pusher bottle opener corkscrew knife) cowhide case $14.95, Buxton wallet, $12

CHRISTMAS GIFT OF DISTINCTION

Sportster is a perfect gift for a sportsman Wherever he goes for outdoor fun to ball games, the beach, on picnics, hunting and fishing trips he'll want this unique robe and case combination with him The handsome suede finished Sportster case contains a generously proportioned plaid robe by Wool O the West... two inflatable vinyl air cushions are an integral part of the case Robes and cases come in a variety of colors and bear an unconditional guarantee of satisfaction by Portland Woolen Mills, for over fifty years one of the nation's foremost mills.

Attractively gift boxed, about $20.00

For details and the name of your nearest dealer, mail the coupon and receive free your copy of the "Blue Book" of fine woolen products by Wool O the West

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Please send me details on Sportster the name of my nearest dealer and my free copy of the "Blue Book"
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Meet the stars of the smartest formal "cast" ever assembled! Picture yourself enjoying the exclusive AFTER SIX "Informal Comfort in Formal Wear", the authentic style details, luxury fabrics and distinguished needlework of America's most popular formal attire! The show is going on . . . at finer stores everywhere!

The "Ball" Dress Coat is elegantly tailored of extra fine quality all-wool unfinished worsted Easy swinging bal-macaan model, with raglan sleeves All silk double-faced satin facings by Skinner.

The "Continental" Full Dress in midnite blue is available with either grosgrain or Skinner double faced silk satin facings with matching trouser stripe. Featherlite, comfort right.

The "Embassy" Tuxedo for those who prefer more conventional double breasted styling. Midnite blue lightweight worsted with Skinner satin peak lapels New natural lines trim the figure

"TONY MARTIN" Tuxedo slims you, dignifies you, relaxes you, enhances your ego! Imported 2-ply lightweight worsted is accented with Skinner satin shawl collar. Just as comfortable as your smoking jacket! About $75.

After Six BY RUDOFKER

Write for Free Dress Chart "E" and Name of Nearest Dealer
S. RUDOFKER'S SONS, INC. • PHILADELPHIA 3, PA.

125 years of experience

'ROUND THE WORLD... 'ROUND THE CLOCK

The year 1827 belongs to history. For in that year, Scotland's internationally famous *Edradour Distillery* began to produce something not only of interest to historians, but to Scotch drinkers the world over. Today, as in the last century—or *any* century—there is not a finer Scotch available than King's Ransom.

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King's Ransom

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Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*For bar and buffet* Assortment of wood- and bone-handled tools—stainless steel corkscrew, walrus-tusk handle, $7 50 salamander wood-handled corkscrew, $2 50 spreader teaspoons, part of 4-piece relish set (not shown) $3, black sauce ladle, $2 25 Bonniers

Above—*Cornered for edibles.* Astral's portable refrigerator for home college room or office holds 2½ cubic feet of food and drink for hungry moments. In grained brown mahogany it operates on AC or DC $149 95 at Hammacher Schlemmer 145 East 57th Street

Right—*Copper and spice* Wooden spice cabinet with eight jars of seasoning two wooden spoons three small copper pans $19 50 complete and copper kettles frying pans and oval fish skillets from $4 45 to $18 45 ea , all from Bazar Français, 666 Ave. of the Americas

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*Trade Mark

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Boys Sunset in solid shades of long wearing 17 oz. gabardine (nylon-rayon acetate blend—an exclusive Stratojac fabric that's water stain-crease resistant.) Boys' sizes 12 to 20, retail about $27.50; sizes 6 to 12 $21.50. Husky sizes, slightly higher.

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Esquire's CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Below—*Present perfect.* Admirably suited to lovers of fine wine—practically everyone, that is—is this London wicker hamper that holds five bottles nested in colorful Christmas wrappings, $17.93, made up by the Sherry Wine & Spirits Co. Inc., 679 Madison Ave.

Above—*Done up brown.* Made for the barbecue corner of the yard, a charcoal grill with hand-operated bellows to keep the coals a-glow and rubber wheels to make it portable, a shelf for the food and the tools, $44, Lewis & Conger, 45th Street and Ave. of the Americas.

Right—*Desk design.* Adjustable spot-ray lamp, $23.70, Lewis & Conger; flat bowl of brown ceramic, $35; green ceramic bear figurine, $20, both from Idella La Vista; three small ash trays in bright colors with geometric design, $6 each, Georg Jensen, 687 5th Ave.

(ABOVE) 100% wool Donegal Tweed Jacket. Cravenette water repellent. All wool Tim ton collar; Rayon Acetate lining quilted to heavy wool interlining.

(LEFT) Fulled fabric Coat of finest Australian wool. Styled with open cuffs and available in solid colors and Heathers.

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Esquire's FASHION FINDS

the return of the vest... and how!

High, wide, patterned and handsome, the fancy waistcoat is he-man stuff once again

Take a bow lads and throw out that manly chest—cleavage is out for the gals and the biggest news of the moment is the return of the lion's mane, the magnificent ivory of the bull elephant, the fighting feathers of the golden eagle—for the fancy vest, mark of the hues of the family roost, is back from the royal days of Lord Chesterfield!

And by fancy we mean *fancy*: brocaded silks in rich colorings, large floral patterns sometimes measuring three inches across. Blue patterns on gold backgrounds, Scarlet on grey. And get this: the bigger the chest, the bigger the hue and the cry. This is not for fancy-pants boys but for the guys that make the wheels turn. At Oxford and Cambridge the undergraduates are just taking to the idea (a throwback to Edwardian days when kings and merchant princes told the world how good they were à la vesting) and the captains of crew and rugby sport the gayest colors.

The new fashion can't miss. The Tattersall check, an old favorite in Esquire, has been on the upswing for several seasons. In September we brought forward the scarlet waistcoat. In November we predicted the blazer-stripe waistcoat. The fact is, it's Bastille Day for the midriff and prison pallor is out.

The new bold designs will range all over the front area, near the points and on the lapels of the vest, where printed foulard designs will blaze out. Evening waistcoats are taking the plunge too, for wear with dinner jacket and tailcoat. And the new flame is igniting the cummerbund.

Assert your rights, men. Throw out your chest, drape it in one of these vested interests and play the Edwardian man. He's on the way!

(opposite) Lapels, on high flying figured vest in contrast to plain suit

The cummerbund, a tonic for formality, takes an embroidered vim

(below) Small checks against white: once more life without eccentricity

a Gift to be Remembered!

Famous OLD FORESTER in matchless New Guest Decanter!

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VACATION NOW

Mineral baths and solid-gold hotels—Florida in the winter

CHRISTMAS is fine but New Year is generally more lively so Florida saves its liveliest for New Year's. Before December 26th you'll have little difficulty getting space on Florida-bound trains of the Seaboard Atlantic Coast Line or Florida East Coast railroads, or on Florida flights of Eastern, National or Delta airlines. At this time, too, an ocean-front room in one of Miami Beach's Gold Coast hotels can be yours for considerably less than top-of-the-season prices. Once Santa has revved-up his reindeer for the return trip, however, it's worth your life or at least the refurbishment of your finest contacts to get where you want to go at the time you want to be there.

All of which is by way of an indication that now is the time to do some serious planning if you fancy a palm tree and sunny sands in your immediate future. The greater Miami area expects at least as many visitors this winter as it ever had and at the same time the neighboring regions Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale to the north and down south through the Keys are preparing for a big boom.

A few miles north of Miami is the Hollywood Beach Hotel which has managed to endow a large and lavish ocean-front layout with a feeling of warmth and friendliness, which comparatively few big resort hotels can manage. It's one of the few really supersize establishments I've ever seen where I wasn't tempted to try out the echo. It has in addition a fine reputation for more tangible assets such as excellent service, food and furnishings.

It was inevitable that Ponce de León, patron saint of the Florida blurb-writer, would be spruced up now that Florida is promoting its own spas and magical bubble baths. Ponce de León, you'll remember, was the Spanish explorer who heard tell of the wonderful fountain of youth hidden in the Florida jungle, then lost his life to an Indian arrow while seeking it.

Now Fort Lauderdale says it has found Ponce's missing fountain smack in the middle of town, and Fort Lauderdale Springs is in business with mineral baths, drinking fountains, steam rooms, sitz baths, massage rooms, a solarium and all the rest of the varied material designed to make the ill feel good and the well feel better.

Although the whole project is still very new, Florida folks believe Fort Lauderdale Springs will soon rank with Miami Beach's Lincoln Road, Palm Beach's

Continued on page 72

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Whether full-bodied or light bodied, its quality is always superlative, distilled by the Jamaican method used since 1661.
JAMAICA HOT RUM PUNCH—In punch bowl mix 2 cups Jamaica Rum, 1 of brandy, ½ each kummel and Benedictine, 2 tsps sugar, thin strips of peel and slices of a lemon and orange, sweeten to taste, stir in 6 cups boiling water. (For 24)

THE SUGAR MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION (OF JAMAICA) LTD. KINGSTON, JAMAICA, B.W.I.

Vacation Now

Continued from page 71

Worth Avenue, Sarasota's Ringling Museum and the underwater goings-on at Silver Springs among the state's leading attractions.

Say what you will about Florida off-season—and millions of summer visitors are saying a great deal—the fact remains that the resorts don't really lift into the air until the cold winds flush the first big spenders down out of the north.

Palm Beach becomes itself again after the Christmas holidays when the younger sets are packed off to school or college and the middle sets go about their errands and get pushed along the Lake Trail in "Afromobiles."

In Miami, the annual Shrine football game in the Orange Bowl on Christmas Day usually touches off the season's activities, and the Orange Bowl Game a week later shifts the season into high.

But no Miami season is counted successfully launched until the dedication of the new-model Miami Beach hotel. The new Algiers has been described by its advance agents as "right out of the Arabian Nights." But Scheherazade never dreamed up anything like the Algiers bird-cage cardroom suspended above the marquee overhanging the driveway, where you can play canasta and feel like a canary.

The eight-story multicolored building contains 200 rooms facing Lake Pancoast to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. It has 350 feet of ocean frontage and will provide one of the most elaborate beach installations on the strip. Although it will operate on the European Plan, its dining room will accommodate three hundred. And architects Henry Hohauser and Morris Lapidus have designed it so there are no columns to obstruct the vision.

Miami Beach's annual hotel-of-the-year opening celebration differs from the Atlantic City and Detroit festivities, however, in that each new hotel helps its older competitors and the community as a whole. Each ocean-front palace has its own following, attracted perhaps, when it was Miami's Hotel of the Year, but maintained by conscientious service, unfading glamour and luxury in the two or ten years of its operation.

The Casablanca, only two years old, will present an innovation in its Club Morocco this year—the first ice show ever to be held in a Miami Beach hotel. Despite their comparative newness, all of the leading ocean-front hotels—Saxony, Sans Souci, Sea Isle, Delano, Nautilus, San Marino—will be brightening up and refurbishing their rooms, cabana colonies and grounds. And the older standbys, such as the Roney Plaza, Lord Tarleton and Sherry Frontenac, are already blocking off the most desirable rooms and suites on their reservation sheets for clients who return year after year.

The most glittering of the Mi-

Continued on page 74

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Vacation Now

Continued from page 72

ami Beach night clubs—Copa City Ciro's and the Latin Quarter—book their big-name acts to start during the holiday season and run through to April

More people than ever before are going to Florida for their vacation, but a considerable part of Miami's business this year will be using the city as a gateway to the Caribbean We'll be considering air cruises out of Miami in these columns next month but right now we want to call your attention to one of the best short-cruise bets available anywhere It's the overnight service to Cuba by the Peninsula and Occidental Steamship Company which has operated year-round service between southern Florida and Havana for more than half a century

The trip is made by the S S *Florida* an ocean liner accommodating five hundred passengers and built especially for service between Florida and Cuba All staterooms are outside and have forced ventilation electric fans and running water

P & O offers two cruise itineraries One which sails from Miami Mondays and Wednesdays gives you two nights at sea and a day in Havana for $44.00 including four meals aboard ship The other, available on Monday Wednesday and Friday sailings gives two days and one night in Havana for a round-trip fare of $49.50

The world's largest car rental industry has come up with the tremendous boom of the Miami resort area Visitors who come to Miami by plane or train find that they need a car for full enjoyment of the area's recreational facilities and that they can enjoy the convenience at considerably less than they'd pay in cab fares

One of the best-known car-hire outfits in the Miami area is the Couture Motor Corporation which has been in business almost a quarter of a century and will have a late-model car meet you at airport or railroad station or your hotel any hour of day or night

Over on the west coast of Florida one of the brightest and up-and-comingest winter resorts is Clearwater and its neighboring Clearwater Beach. Situated on the highest coastal elevation in the state the city overlooks the famous Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Causeway extending across Clearwater Bay to the Beach which is located on the Gulf of Mexico less than two miles away

In addition to swimming and sunning on a fine white sand beach, you can enjoy salt-water fishing in both Bay and Gulf as well as good bass fishing in several near by fresh-water lakes

The Clearwater area is also a golfing center. The eighteen-hole course of the Clearwater Country Club is a championship affair and within four miles of downtown Clearwater you'll find the Pelican Golf Club Belleview Biltmore and the National PGA courses ###

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European "Winter Sports" Guide

Esquire's January issue—on sale December 5—will give valuable information on tours and winter sports vacations in the skiers Paradise—The Alps!

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Unless indicated no dancing by customers Phone for your table.

Food in a Festive Mood

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Continued on page 76

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Going Places with Esquire

Continued from page 75

food, polite waiters, white linen, a sound bar, a notable cellar. **Cafe St Denis**, 11 E. 53rd. Excellent bar, savory French cookery. Ask Marcel to plan your dinner. **Chateaubriand**, 131 E. 54th St. Elegant viands and elderly potables. Alex Hounie, front man, is one of best judges of wine in parish. **Bacceas**, 203 East 45th St. Cozy bar, dining room, dishes are masterpieces. **Robert**, 33 West 55th St. Tiny Drum Bar is one of the best. Owner Robert features classic French dishes. **Colony Restaurant**, 30 E. 61st St. Dining in grand manner, cuisine is French-Italian, top-flight, service is more than competent. Bar is one of the best. **Gogi's Larue**, 45 E. 58th St. Sheer swank. Food is excellent, tariff steep. Music—an obbligato to Hollywoodians and people in the news. **"21"**, 21 W. 52nd St. Snobbish in a nice way, service and food incredibly good. You are bound to see some "21" patron who is nationally known. **Restaurant Marguery**, 270 Park Ave. Cocktail bar is cozy, drinks are perfection, vintages are dependable. Food is traditionally good. **Copain**, 1st Ave. & 50th. Food, bar, come close to perfection. Dine to soft music, open late.

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Luchow's, 110 E. 14th St. One of New York's oldest restaurants. Goose roasted to a turn, other

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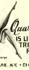

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Going Places with Esquire

Continued from page 76

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Sea Food and Finny Fare

White's, 145 Fulton St. The Mealtime are special: the clam cream stew is epicurean. **Sweet's,** 2 Fulton St. Food undeniably good, prices reasonable. **Sea Fare,** 1033 1st Ave. Bar noteworthy; lobster bisque Poulette, Clams Casino are so good gourmets drool. **Gloucester House,** 59 W. 51st St. Good service, reasonable prices, excellent bar and food.

Hotels

Among those you can ill afford to miss are the Pierre's **Cotillion Room,** the Plaza's **Persian Room,** the Astor's **Grand Ballroom,** the Waldorf-Astoria's **Starlight Roof** and **Empire Room,** the **Drake Room** at the Hotel Drake, the **Rose Room** of the Algonquin, the **Raleigh Room** of the Warwick. And numerous others.

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Going Places with Esquire

Continued from page 78

Cocktails for Two

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CARIBBEAN

Emlyn Williams

BOOTS AT THE HOLLY-TREE INN

A Christmas story by Charles Dickens, chosen and abridged especially for Esquire by Emlyn Williams

Editor's Note: **A few years ago Emlyn Williams, playwright (*The Corn is Green, Night Must Fall*) and actor (*Major Barbara, The Stars Look Down*), was reading Dickens to his children, and suddenly was gripped by the ghost of Dickens' past. He gave a Dickens reading at a London benefit, then retired to put in two years of intensive work on Dickensiana. By the end of 1951 he was ready: made up to be the spit and image of the middle-aged Dickens, and standing behind a replica of Dickens' own lectern, he acted Dickens as Dickens had acted out the novels in the theatres of nineteenth-century England and America. He ran more than a hundred performances in London and more than forty in New York, and he pleased everybody—young and old, critical and scholarly—and he is coming back this year, with two new programs of Dickens, to tour American theatres and universities.**

A few months ago, when we were planning this Christmas Carousel, we asked Williams to pick us a story, and to prepare it for us as though he were going to read it, on Christmas Eve, to a gathering of friends, young and old. He chose *Boots at the Holly-Tree Inn*, which was first published in 1855, in the Christmas issue of *Household Words*, Dickens' own magazine. ("Boots," Williams explained, "is old-fashioned English for the man who cleans boots and shoes in an hotel.") We asked him why this particular story, and he replied: "Why? Why indeed, rather than a creepy ghost story like *The Signalman*, or the more hackneyed *Christmas Carol*? Because, I suppose, this unashamedly sentimental whimsy of two children is spiced with the quirk of humor which is never quite absent from Dickens: because—well, because it's sentimental whimsy, period, about two tiny children who are neither Freudian monsters nor the haunted offspring of Henry James. Because it is a Christmas story."

TALKING of Christmases, what was the curiousest thing he had seen of a Christmastide at the Holly-Tree Inn? Well . . . supposing a young gentleman not eight year old was to run away with a fine young woman of seven, all of a snowy Christmas Eve—might I think *that* a queer start? Certainly. Then that was a start as he himself had had his blessed eyes on, and he had cleaned the shoes they run away in—and the shoes was so little that he couldn't get his hand into 'em.

Master Harry Walmer's father, you see, he lived at the Elmses, down away by Shooter's Hill there, six or seven miles from London. He was a gentleman of spirit and good-looking, and held his head up when he walked, and had what you may call Fire about him. He wrote poetry, and he rode, and he ran, and he cricketed, and he danced, and he acted, and he done it all equally beautiful. He was uncommon proud of Master Harry as was his only child; but he didn't spoil him neither. He was a gentleman that had a will of his own and a eye of his own. Consequently, though he made quite a companion of the fine bright boy, and was delighted to see him so fond of reading his books, and was never tired of hearing him sing his songs about Young May Moons is beaming love, and when he as adores thee has left but the name, and that, still he kept the command over the child, and the child was a child, and it's to be wished more of 'em was!

How did Boots happen to know all this? Why, through being undergardener. Of course he couldn't be undergardener, and he always about in the summertime, near the windows on the lawn, a mowing and sweeping, and weeding and pruning, and this and that, without getting acquainted with the ways of the family. Even supposing Master Harry hadn't come to him one morning early, and said, "Cobbs, how should you spell Norah, if you was asked?" and then began cutting it in print all over the fence.

He couldn't say he had taken particular notice of children before that; but really it was pretty to see them two mites a going about the place together, deep in love. And the courage of the boy! Bless your soul, he'd have throwed off his little hat, and tucked up his little sleeves, and gone in at a Lion, he would, if they had happened to meet one, and she had been frightened of him. One day he stops, along with her, where Boots was hoeing weeds in the gravel, and says, speaking up, 'Cobbs,' he says, "I like you." "Do you, sir? I'm proud to hear it." "Yes, I do, Cobbs. Why do I like you, do you think, Cobbs?" "Don't know, Master Harry, I am sure." "Because Norah likes you, Cobbs." "Indeed, sir? That's very gratifying." "Gratifying, Cobbs? It's better than millions of the brightest diamonds to be liked by Norah." "Certainly, sir." "You're going away, ain't you, Cobbs?" "Yes, sir." "Would you like another situation, Cobbs?" "Well, sir, I shouldn't object, if it was a good 'un." "Then, Cobbs," says he, "you shall be our Head Gardener when we are married." And he tucks her, in her little sky-blue mantle, under his arm, and walks away.

Boots could assure me that it was better than a picter, and equal to a play, to see them babies with their long, bright curling hair, their sparkling eyes, and their beautiful light tread, a rambling about the garden, deep in love. Boots was of opinion that the birds believed the two of 'em was birds, and kept up with 'em, singing to please 'em. Sometimes they would creep under the tulip tree, and would sit there with their arms round one another's necks, and their soft cheeks touching, a reading about the Prince and the Dragon, and the good and bad enchanters, and the king's fair daughter. Sometimes he would hear them planning about having a house in a forest, keeping bees and a cow, and living entirely on milk and honey. Once he came upon them by the pond, and heard Master Harry say, "Adorable Norah, kiss me, and say you love me to distraction, or I'll jump in head foremost.' And Boots made no question he would have done it if she hadn't complied. On the whole, Boots said it had a tendency to make him feel as if he was in love himself—only he didn't exactly know who with.

"Cobbs," said Master Harry, one evening, when Cobbs was watering the flowers, 'I am going on a visit, this coming Christmas Eve, to my grandmamma's at York."

"Are you indeed, sir? I hope you'll have a pleasant time. I am going into Yorkshire, myself, when I leave here."

"Are you going to your Grandmamma's, Cobbs?"

"No, sir. I haven't got such a thing."

"Not as a grandmamma, Cobbs?"

"No, sir."

The boy looked on at the watering of the flowers for a little while, and then said, "I shall be very glad indeed to go, Cobbs—Norah's going."

"You'll be all right then, sir," says Cobbs, "with your beautiful sweetheart by your side."

"Cobbs," returned the boy, flushing, "I never let anybody joke about it, when I can prevent them."

"It wasn't a joke, sir," says Cobbs with humility, "wasn't so meant."

"I am glad of that, Cobbs, because I like you, you know, and you're going to live with us—Cobbs!"

"Sir."

"What do you think my grandmamma gives me when I go down there?"

"I couldn't so much as make a guess, sir."

"A Bank of England five-pound note, Cobbs."

"Whew!" says Cobbs. "That's a spanking sum of money, Master Harry."

"A person could do a good deal with such a sum of money as that, couldn't a person, Cobbs?"

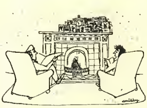
"I believe you, sir!"

"Cobbs," said the boy, "I'll tell you a secret. At Norah's house, they have been joking her about me and pretend- (*Continued on page 186*)

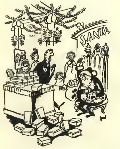
ILLUSTRATED BY GUSTAV REHBERGER

CHRISTMAS PUNCH LINES

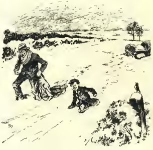
John Bull chuckles through in Britain's famous magazine



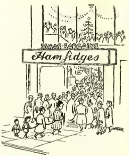
"Throw a few more on the fire, dear"

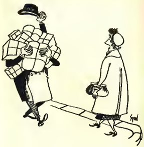


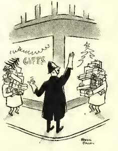
"If you're not careful, you'll be disillusioning him"

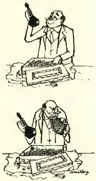


"What exactly is an old-fashioned Christmas, Daddy?"









LOVING CUPS AROUND THE WORLD...

A selection of very merry ways to say a very Merry Christmas

by Harry Botsford

AROUND the world, Christmas is the holiday, the merriest, mightiest, best-loved, best-celebrated day of the year. Rich, warm, and laughing, the Christmas spirit envelops the earth and inspires man—epicurean man—to treat himself to the traditional holiday drinks of his nation. Sometimes complex, sometimes simple and neat, the toasts of his choice are hallowed by years of familiarity, selectivity, and mellow appreciation.

For your Christmas, whether you say it in English or Spanish, French or American, here are seven merry ways

(Continued on page 232)

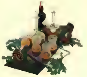
FELICES PASCUAS: Señores, the Christmas punch of the Caribbean is lovely to look at, smooth as ambrosia, ideal for a Christmas toast. Made with an elderly rum, pineapple, sparkling water, strawberries

MERRY YULETIDE: In Canada, as in England and in English speaking countries the world over, eggnog with brandy, rum or whiskey is a traditional Christmas drink. Served cold, its warmth is built in

GOD JUL: A heartwarming drink for the cold holiday season, Glögg is the Scandinavian favorite. Potent and palatable, it is made with great ceremony and generous measures of claret, brandy and Aquavit

BUON NATALE: A joyous people, the Italians—and a simple people, too. Therefore, their special Christmas punch is merely made of Barbera wine with a few choice spices for the sake of seasonal flavor

JOYEUX NOEL: The French, too, are simple people. Not one would think of celebrating the holiday season with anything but their wine of wines—champagne. Served with skill, it is their supreme toast



BONNIE YULE: Scots drink to your happiness—saying, "Long may your chimney have smoke"—with their native wine: Scotch whisky. They use special glasses, but the "wine" is the same—and fine as usual

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDGAR DE EVIA

MERRY CHRISTMAS: America, land of many nations, has many traditional punches. Ranking high is the famous old punch of the Schuylkill Fishing Company in Pennsylvania, made of cognac, rum and brandy

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRED PLAUT

THE OLD PARTY GOES TO LONDON

A personal reminiscence **by W. Somerset Maugham**

When I received news from my agent that my play *Lady Frederick*, after innumerable rejections, had been accepted and was going into rehearsal immediately, I was at Girgenti in Sicily. The letter arrived on Sunday and the first rehearsal was to take place on Thursday. I was excited; *Lady Frederick* was my third play; the first had been produced by an experimental society and after two performances was as dead as mutton, the second had been refused by everybody. This was an occasion which I felt I must on no account miss. For the time I was not prepared to interest myself further in Greek temples. But I lived from hand to mouth and had come to Sicily only because I had sold a story for twenty pounds; the money was to arrive at Palermo just about the same time as I, and on it I had proposed to see the rest of Sicily and get home.

I counted the money I had with me. It was only enough to take me to Naples. I could not wait for my twenty pounds; I packed my bag, jumped into the train and at Palermo caught the boat to Naples.

I arrived there on Monday morning. I went to Cook's and found that a boat was going to Marseilles that afternoon and took a ticket, but when I offered a check in payment the agent firmly refused to accept anything but cash. I assumed an air of outraged dignity, but it availed me nothing. I expostulated, I raged, I stormed, and at last (I am not a dramatist for nothing) flung out of the office vowing that I would not put up with such insolent treatment. I did not know a soul in Naples and I had about five shillings in my pocket. I went to the office of the steamship company and asked for a first-class ticket to Marseilles (at Cook's I had asked for a second—perhaps that had been my mistake), and sat while the clerk made it out. When it was ready I produced my check book with a good deal of flamboyance and without a word wrote a check for the amount due. The clerk, young and timid, looked a trifle doubtful, but my assurance was such that he had not the nerve to refuse my check; in a minute I was out of the office with my ticket to Marseilles in my pocket.

But I had to get to London. I had noticed on my way in that the shipping agents were also bankers, the banking part of the establishment being in another part of the building. I went in and walked boldly up to the desk. I took out my checkbook and the ticket I had just received.

"I'm going to Marseilles on one of your boats this afternoon. You might cash me a check for five pounds, will you?" I smiled ingratiatingly but with a certain condescension. "Here's my ticket in case you want a proof of my *bona fides*."

I began to write my check as though there were no possibility of a refusal. The cashier took it and looked at it.

"Do you know anyone here?" he asked me.

I forget the name of the bank, but I think one of the partners was called Turner. It was the middle of summer, and very hot and near the luncheon hour. I thought I would take a chance. I smiled pleasantly at the cashier.

"Is Mr. Turner in?" I asked.

"No, he's away," said the cashier. "D'you know Mr. Turner?"

"Well," I said.

"Oh, then I suppose it's all right."

He cashed the check, but I could see that he was not very easy about it, and I did not linger in the bank after I had the money in my pocket. I was in great spirits, for now I had enough money to take me to Paris and I felt confident that I could get on from there without delay.

It was a charming journey; the sea was calm and the sky blue. I sat on deck reading. If everything went well I could get to London in the nick of time; it would be a nuisance if I were held up in Paris.

Then two of my fellow passengers came up to me and asked if I would like to come into the ship's sweepstakes on the day's run.

"How much is it?" I asked.

"Half a crown."

I knew then how I was going to get from Paris to London. My heart leaped. I handed one of the men my half crown, gave him my name and went on reading. In an hour he came back and paid me twenty-five shillings. When I got to London I still had a shilling for my cab. On Thursday morning at eleven o'clock I strolled into the Court Theatre. I felt like Phileas Fogg after his journey round the world in eighty days, entering the Reform Club as the clock struck eight. #

ST. NICK'S DIARY

Santa, like the carnival wheel, goes round and round, and where he stops, everybody smiles ***by Eldon Dedini***

December 24, 1952
"Here's a secret. I don't believe there are any bad boys and girls—I always leave something for everyone!"

Somewhere over Siberia, December 24, 1952
"Just had a terrific argument with some uncouth character who insists that he invented me!"

December 24, 1952
"Today my dear wife thought that I was out delivering electric trains."

December 24, 1952
"I never could see what lovely Mrs. Brewster saw in that pint-sized fellow she married."

Midnight, December 24, 1952
"Ran into an ornery butler who assured me that Master Tommy had everything"

White House, December 25, 1952
"Waited around for quite a while in the Study for my annual *Jingle Bells* duet with the President, but I guess he was out someplace"

December 25, 1952
"Around five a.m. I became moody and dropped into the 66 Club for a quick one. Had the feeling that a lot of people didn't believe in me anymore."

Two a.m., December 25, 1952
"'Didn't you get my letter?' she kept purring. I get so many letters you can understand the sort of situation I was in!"

December 25, 1952
"Winston and I agree that after a really strenuous session nothing relaxes one more than oil painting. We're here in the Bahamas for two glorious weeks, and having a wonderful time!"

MISTRESS PARIS

The immortal Queen of cities, the best-loved lady in all the world

by ROBERT RUARK

PARIS, FRANCE

WE use a dateline of "Paris, France," advisedly. This is to differentiate it from Paris, Kentucky. One is about as easily achievable as the other these days for not much difference in money. I recently went to Paris for a week end, resulting in a somewhat jumbled set of impressions. Paris is like this these days.

You climb aboard one of the special tourist flights—TWA was my choice—and you find yourself in the overseas flying-bus business straight away. I was sitting next to an old Greek lady who had been over to visit her son who ran a hamburger joint in Ohio. She was a wonderful old lady, gnarled, seamed, brown as a nut, and a good eighty years old.

The special overseas cut-rate tourist flights do not serve free booze like the de luxer ones do, and so I offered the old Greek gal a snap out of my own bottle. She shook her head and winked at me. She fumbled deep into her rusty garments and came up triumphantly with a small flask of Greek brandy that smelled like pure turpentine. She took a belt that would have popped the marble eyes out of the Aphrodite of Melos, winked again, and went to sleep as soundly as a child.

Sitting across from me were three pretty young kids, off for the whole summer to spend a budget vacation in Europe, and fit to bust with excitement. They could not recover from the immense concept of being in New York one day, Paris the next. There were a few Very Important People aboard the coach flight—on another I later rode with Italian Premier de Gasperi and a flock of movie stars—and there were lots of kids and what the snobs used to call common people. They were mostly people who would not have been going to Europe in the old days, or even in the yesterdays before the trip became time-possible and purse-possible. You can get there just as fast now—it's just that you get there with fewer frills. Our flight was non-bumpy, serene. With the exception of a three-two seat arrangement, instead of the two-to-the-side, and the fact that you buy a meal ticket for four bucks, there is no discernible difference.

The commonly used transocean airline is an important introduction to a short-order experience in the previously almost unattainable glamour capitals of the world, if only because people with no more than two-weeks' vacation have changed the complexion of those capitals. Ship travel is pleasant, but a man with fourteen days to spend cannot afford *(Continued on page 220)*

Here, by the hundreds, are the girls to end all girls—from Sweden, like Kaj-Britt Wilkens, the twinkling eyes at top of page; from Italy, like Podesta, at far left; from Indo-China, like Yvote Tang, at center of our trio, and from France itself, like Suzanne Cloutier (left) and Colette Laurent (right)

To Montmartre: the steps at la Rue Chappe
PHOTOGRAPH BY RENE JACQUES

PARIS À LA MAURICE

President Chevalier and his Republique ***by Alexander Kirkland***

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WALLACE LITWIN

The self-styled Unofficial Président of the République leaned out across the balustrade and breathed in the sun-lit breeze. "I have the longest balcony in Paris," he said, looking along the narrow deck which outlines two sides of his flatiron-shaped four-room walk-up. Glancing down the five stories to the Avenue Foch, the President could look into the candleholders of the chestnut blossoms below, could follow the avenue to its beginning in l'Etoile, could, in fact, see most of his volatile capital. The President's Uhangian lower lip curled out and under with pleasure. "Each time I look at Paris I receive the—the *shock*! I feel it in my shoes. The sense one has when he sees something and it is right—the only way it could be. I am in love with Paris because—you will have to admit—Paris has a perfume that exists nowhere else!"

Salut Maurice, Président Chevalier! The Paris that you overlook is your cardiograph, and every *arrondissement* holds a heartbeat. Every district has known a part of your life, a moment, an hour, a day, a month of your sixty-five years. Each *quartier* from Ménilmontant through the Boulevard des Capucines, to Montmartre stands for a woman's name.

First, your mother—"I don't know why we called her La Louque. If you broke my nose in eleven places I couldn't explain the name. It means nothing. Mamma belonged to us and she was our Louque and that was that!"

Colette Willy—"We played on the same bill at Lyons in 1908. I fell in love with her at once. But I was intimidated by her grandeur. Many years later, when she was the famous writer Colette, I confessed the feeling. 'Is that so, dear Maurice? How silly!' she said. 'You should have told me.' What (*Continued overleaf*)

M. Chevalier's hats by the haberdashers Gelot, in the Place Vendôme, Paris

The lady is my very good friend

We met, of course, on a beautiful day

But she was with another man

I had to attract her attention

I suggested a jeroboam of champagne

We talked—we talked about the franc

I warmed my hands at the flame of love

I was romantic, her caballero—and she

became, as I say, my very good friend

L'HOMME DE PARIS

a shame that I am now a fat old lady—and it's too late!' "

Mistinguett—"What can I say about Mistinguett? Tell me, sirs did you know Mist when she was thirty? Do you remember that body? She was like gunpowder in your blood! And what wit! Hers was the savage splendor of the battle flag of the people!"

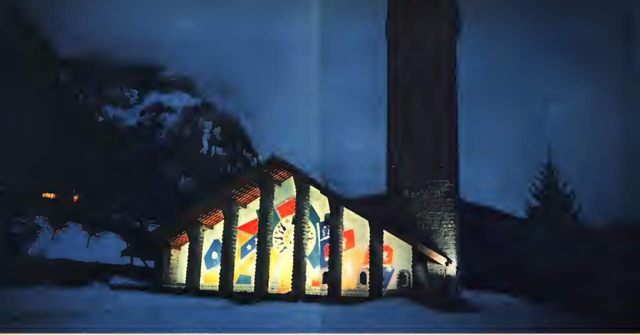
Yvonne Vallee—'The only one I married.' Lucienne Boyer. Marlene Dietrich—'A magnificent friend.'' Nita Raya—'I was forty-six. She was nineteen. She fell from heaven into my arms, *cette gosse*. Irrefusable!''

And finally, today, the Montmartre nightclub entertainer, Lady Patachou—'It is not what people say! She is a very intelligent woman. Ours is une *amitié amoureuse*—How do you say? A loving friendship!''

Each *arrondissement* of Paris is jealous of the other, and each of these lovely women, save Colette and Dietrich, is jealous too. Yesterday Mistinguett, the eighty-year-old redhead, saw Chevalier driving in the Bois with the Lady Patachou. She couldn't rest until she reached him on the telephone. 'Forty years of loving you gives me the right to *know*. Are you having an affair with her?' Chevalier accepts such feminine attention with Gallic blandness. An actor victoriously resists the physical disintegration which comes to other men. Is it bravado? Ego? Perhaps. But also it may be one of the small privileges of us old *amoureux*.

Président Chevalier has aged as gracefully as his capital. The city and the man are much alike: the infinity of silver-slated roofs and the well-brushed silver hair over the temples, the boulevards' sculptured flower and gravel beds and the actor's smart double-breasted blue serge, dotted tie, identical handkerchief, and ribbon of the Legion, the neo-classic white marble buildings, remaining from the Exposition, and Maurice's smile, produced by thirty-two blazing white teeth, his ice-blue eyes (which Colette once described as mauve) and the city's pale sky reflected in the Seine, Chevalier's sensual lower lip and—what? The Eiffel Tower!

The city and the man are alike in a deeper sense; they are both insecure and fearful behind their masks of gaiety, frugal to the point of parsimony behind their show of luxe. Chevalier's fine collection of modern paintings—Cézanne, Renoir, Bonnard, Bombois, Gluckmann, Kiffer, Utrillo—lines the walls of a small walk-up flat atop four flights of rag- (*Continued on page 108*)



FRANCE ILLUSTRATION

A PLACE FOR CHRISTMAS

More modern than neon candles, Notre Dame d'Assy has the charm of ancient rites

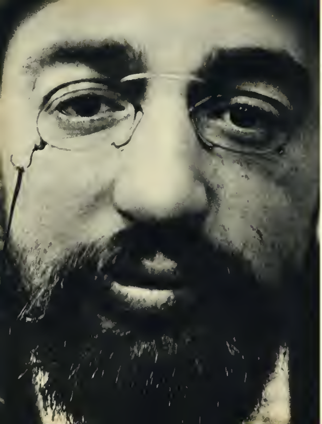
Everybody seeks an old-fashioned Christmas, the hazy idea of a perfect traditional Christmas almost remembered from childhood. But no Christmas can ever be quite like any other. Each of us must improvise.

For those who are wary of change because they are uncertain whether they are tampering with religion or making a splendid offering, this little church, Notre Dame de Toute Grâce, has a beautiful answer. Built for the patients in a sanatorium on the Plateau d'Assy in the French Alps it is one of the most exciting religious and artistic interpretations of our time. Father Pierre Couturier, an artist before he became a Dominican monk, directed the decoration. He commissioned France's most prominent artists and made this church not only an interesting experiment but a treasure house.

It has stained glass windows by Rouault and by Couturier himself. For the other artists, the church was a new challenge. None of them had ever worked within the limitations of religious discipline. The floodlit mosaic across the front of the church is the work of Fernand Léger. Inside are the standard accoutrements. But rather than imitate what is to be seen in every church that has been built in the last century, Father Couturier persuaded Jacques Lipschitz to design a baptismal font, Pierre Bonnard to paint an altarpiece, Georges Braque to design a tabernacle door, and Jean Lurçat to make a tapestry for the apse. Here is a reburgeoning of religious art—and a development of the tradition.

Tradition is tough, and its variations do not disturb its integrity. Every Christmas people and every generation have added symbols to the Christmas tradition. And surely, each symbol was added in the face of complaints that this was too modern to be truly Christmas. A new Christmas idea may be forgotten with the season. Or it may become part of the legend.

Without innovation, a legend can't live. And a modern Christmas, like a modern church, does not mean revolution. It means enrichment. ■



MOULIN ROUGE

An appreciation of Toulouse-Lautrec

by John Huston

Painting by Toulouse Lautrec of the celebrated music-hall singer, YVETTE GUILBERT

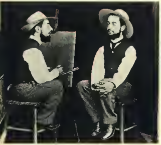
ALTHOUGH the man has been dead for only a little more than fifty years, the story of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec has already got buried in myth. Some of the myth Lautrec made for himself, and the public, which likes its artists pickled in a romantic atmosphere of gin and poverty, did the rest. But the truth is still around, and you can find it fairly easily if you look.

Lautrec was born on November 24th, 1864, in Albi into one of the bluest-blooded families in France. He was the spoiled child of a distinguished aristocracy, and might have stayed spoiled. But he was a puny child, and one day he slipped and fell, and broke both his legs. They never mended properly, and remained childish while the rest of his body grew to manhood. Although neither dwarfed nor crippled, he never stood more than four feet, seven inches tall.

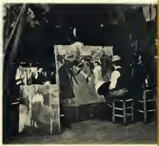
Without this accident he probably would have lived his father's life as a great gentleman and a dilettante painter. But now he could not ride or hunt or fight in wars, the life of his people *(Continued overleaf)*

Courtesy Art Institute of Chicago

MOULIN ROUGE



A bizarre, 1890 double-exposure of "M. Toulouse painting the portrait of M. Lautrec-Monfa." (Courtesy John Rewald, New York City)



Lautrec's littered studio was a mecca in Montmartre for ten years. Above, he works on AT THE MOULIN ROUGE, 1890 (Courtesy Charell)

was beyond him. He never stopped longing for that life—a short time before his death somebody asked him what he had missed the most because of his deformity and he replied "Horses."

His own way of life impossible, he went to Montmartre to the merry-go-round of Paris night life—prostitutes, actors, acrobats and circus performers. Here he found people as dwarfed and distorted as himself, and they accepted him as easily as he accepted them. He was a star boarder in many of Montmartre's great brothels where he spent most of his adult life. He would live in one of them for weeks on end, sketching and painting its inhabitants and often giving the sketches and paintings to his models. He liked to draw the nude. He would find a woman dressing or undressing, and he would talk to her casually as he made his sketch. He did not like models and seldom used them; most of his paintings were unposed and natural.

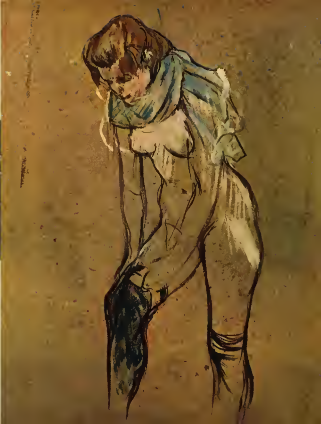
He conducted much of his outside business from the brothels, partly because he hated the pompous lawyers who ran his family affairs. Once when there were some important papers to be signed the lawyers told Lautrec he had to come to their offices. Lautrec replied that if the papers were that important the lawyers had better come to him. Finally the distinguished posse came to the address Lautrec had given them which turned out to be the Perroquet, a famous brothel. They found him in his room stark naked except for his hat, painting nude women who were lounging in several unsophisticated positions. The lawyers were outraged, but Lautrec casually read the papers and signed them with his favorite signature—a coffeepot with a spout and lid, the lid representing his hat.

Lautrec was a witty man in a waspish sort of way and he was rarely bitter. His jokes were mostly on himself. One of the most famous, possibly apocryphal, came from an argument by two prostitutes over a pet dog. One of them summed it up with "It's too ugly to be a pedigreed dog," and the other turned to Lautrec and said, "A dog can be ugly and still have a good pedigree, can't it, Henri?"

Lautrec smiled at the remark and said, "Are you asking me?"

Once he had a pony cart made into a cabriolet and drove it through Montmartre with ponies instead of horses. Again he took to the Opera a madam from a famous brothel and introduced her as his aunt, and wives in the audience were surprised to see how many men Lautrec's aunt knew by their first names.

He was a dandy and dressed in outrageous suits and sporty hats (once he had a vest made from the cover of a billiard table) and he always carried a cane. Most people thought he used it to keep steady when he walked; actually it had the opposite effect. Inside the cane was a glass tube full of brandy and inside the cap a whiskey glass which unscrewed, so (*Continued overleaf*)



WOMAN FIXING HER STOCKING, by Toulouse-Lautrec, courtesy M. Edouard Julien, Albi (France) Museum

Director John Huston, Ferrer, and ballerina Colette Marchand (in the role of Marie Charlet, who was a great love of Lautrec's life) take time out in Paris

MOULIN ROUGE

Jose Ferrer in his role of the deformed Lautrec in the new Technicolor film, *Moulin Rouge*, a United Artists release

that he had refreshments wherever he went.

He was a powerful swimmer and known as a fighter. Once he and Seurat went to Brussels for a combined exhibition and a man spoke disparagingly of Van Gogh, who had been a friend of Lautrec and had recently died. Lautrec challenged the man to a duel, and the man publicly apologized to one and all.

Like most of his group he made no money from his paintings, though he may have sold a few. The famous posters of Moulin Rouge, Jane Avril, May Milton, Yvette Guilbert and May Belfort were done as favors to friends and he never expected to be paid. He painted what he saw and never dramatized his subjects or allowed his emotional reactions to color his work. He painted a line of prostitutes holding up their dresses for an inspection as he would have painted a great lady of the day. Much can be read into Lautrec's art, but Lautrec himself never cared to give "meaning."

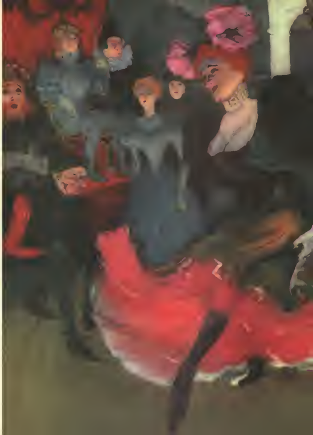
Liquor and his way of living brought him to a mental breakdown and he was committed to a sanitarium. To win his release he made sketches of circus scenes and the doctors accepted the drawings as proof that he was sane. His mother hired an attendant to stay with him at all times, but nobody could stop his drinking, and in 1901, two months before his 37th birthday, he died. After his death his mother burned many of his finest sketches because she thought they were indecent.

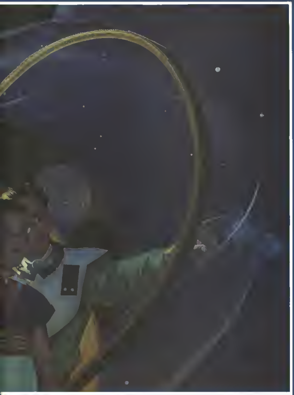
Part of this story I knew for myself, part I got from the book *Moulin Rouge*, a fictionalized biography of Lautrec, which James Woolf, an English producer, had pushed on me as an idea for a movie. The book was a best seller, but the major studios wouldn't touch it because they were afraid of the censorship problem. I decided to let that problem wait until it came up and I bought the book.

Once I had it I suddenly thought, "My God, who can do this?" The only actor I could imagine in the part was Joe Ferrer, and when I got back to New York after finishing *The African Queen* I called him up and asked him if he'd read the book. "Read it?" he said. "I *own* it." It turned out Joe had already bought the book for the theatre, and he was as eager to make the picture as I was.

The minute I announced I was going to make the picture I found that everybody wanted to play in it. Big-name *(Continued on page 215)*

LE BALLET DE CHILPERIC: MARCELLE LENDEN, 1895, Toulouse-Lautrec's world famous satiric masterpiece devastates Madame Lender — and gives her immortality ➵





THE GIFT

by Ray Bradbury

Tomorrow would be Christmas and even while the three of them rode to the rocket port the mother and father were worried. It was the boy's first flight into space, his very first time in a rocket, and they wanted everything to be perfect. And when, at the customs table, they were forced to leave behind the toy and the little tree with the lovely white candles, they felt themselves deprived of a great pleasure.

The boy was waiting for them in the Mars Rocket Terminal room. Walking toward him, after their unsuccessful clash with the Interplanetary customs, the mother and father whispered to each other.

"What will we do?"

"Nothing, nothing. What *can* we do?"

"Silly rules!"

"And he was so much looking forward to the tree."

The siren gave a great scream and people leaped up and pressed forward into the Mars Rocket, pushing the mother and father and their thin son along among the rumble and tussle.

"I'll think of something," said the father.

"What?" asked the boy.

But the rocket took off and they were flung immediately into dark space.

The rocket traveled at 29 000 miles an hour, leaving behind it Earth on which the date was December 24th, 2052, heading out into a place where there was no time at all, no month, no year, no hour. They slept away the first "day." Near midnight, by their Earth-time watches, the boy awoke and said, "I want to go look out the port window."

There was only one port and that was up on another deck.

"Not quite yet," said the father. "I'll take you up later."

"I want to see where we are and where we're going."

"There's plenty of time for that." The father had been thinking, lying awake, considering the problem of the toy and the wonderful tree and the white candles. And at last he had found a plan. He need only carry it out, and life would be very fine indeed.

"Son," he said, "in exactly one hour it will be Christmas."

"Oh," said the mother, dismayed that he mentioned it. She had rather hoped the boy would forget.

The boy's face grew pale and feverish. "I know, I know! Will I get a present? Will I have a tree?"

"Yes, all of that, but much more," said the father.

The mother started. "But—"

"I mean it." The father gave her a look.

He left their little cabin for ten minutes. When he came back he was smiling. "Almost time."

"Can I hold your watch?" asked the boy, and held his father's watch while the rest of the hour drifted by in fire and space and silent motion.

"It's Christmas *now*! Christmas! Where's my present?"

"Here we go," said the father, and took his boy by the shoulder and led him from the room, up several rampways through the rocket, his wife following.

"What . . . ?" she asked.

"Here we are," said the father.

They had stopped at the doorway of a large cabin. The door was closed. The father rapped three times and then twice, in a code. The door opened and the light in the cabin went out and there was a whisper of voices.

"Go on in, Son," said the father.

"It's dark."

"I'll hold your hand. Come on, Mama."

They moved into the room and the door shut, and the room was very dark indeed. And before them loomed a great glass eye, the porthole, six feet high and ten feet wide, from which they could look out into space.

The boy gasped.

Behind him, the father and the mother gasped also, and then in the dark room some people began to sing.

"Merry Christmas, Son," said the father.

And the voices in the room sang the old carols. And he moved forward slowly until his face was pressed against the cool glass of the port. And he stood there for a long long time, just looking and looking out into space and the deep night at the burning and the burning of ten billion billion white and lovely candles . . . ##

"I seem to have gone out without my key, but Mr Partridge next door has one"

THE FACE OF SPAIN

A poor country, its land worn by centuries of bad farming, its history a casebook of blunders, its inhabitants weakened by grudge-holding. "The Spanish," said George Orwell, "are a people who shoot each other." But behind the poverty, the ignorance, the lust for Death are a pride, a courage, a sensibility, a constant generosity—here, in the face of Spain.

PHOTOGRAPHED ESPECIALLY FOR ESQUIRE BY WALLACE LITWIN

Flamenco singer at the Villa Rosa in a Madrid suburb. Right: castanets waving in a night club in the city

THE FIRE OF SPAIN

SPANISH art is different from any other art: the pride and the ferocity of Spain have entered into it and controlled it. From the bitter, fiercely religious paintings of El Greco and the humanitarian violence of Goya, to the slick dream-images of Dali, the incredibly skilled and angry abstractions of Picasso and the brilliantly colored fantasies of Miro, Spanish art has had a power to disturb, to inflame, that no other art has ever achieved—indeed, has ever desired.

In music, too, there is a strangeness about Spain: from Couperin to Bizet to Debussy, whenever a French composer has wanted to express the exotic he has crossed the Pyrenees for his inspiration. To the eighteenth century Spain gave its greatest dance form, the dignified yet sensuous Sarabande. To the nineteenth century it gave the Bolero and the gypsy dances of *Carmen*; to our time it has given the Flamenco.

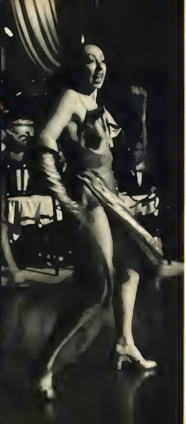
Flamenco is an art of the people, and its great period, probably, was from 1880 to 1910, when only the people danced it, and only the people knew about it. On the old, springy boards of wineshops far from the theatres and night clubs and palaces of Madrid, the great Andalusian and gypsy dancers swayed to the rhythms plucked out on the guitar, the great instrument of Spain, or barked by the handclaps of the villagers gathered in a circle around them.

Flamenco is a sensuous dance, asking little from the feet, much from the torso and enormities of grace and seductiveness from the head and arms. And there is a song that goes with it, that starts with a long, wavering cry and breaks over the music of the guitar, or the rhythm of the clapping, when emotion rises so strongly in the singer that she cannot hold it back. The words are not important: it is the pitch of the sound, the breathless tension of the delivery, that gives meaning to the song.

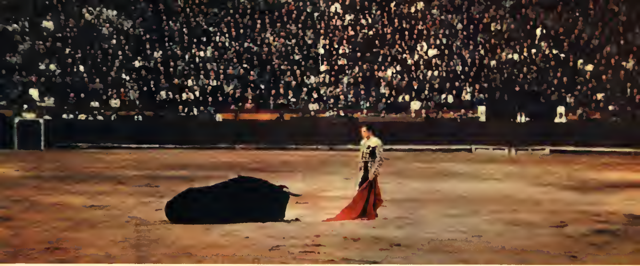
For the message of Flamenco is intensity, the intensity of pain or of pleasure, or of the two mixed in the individual pattern of the singer. And the aim of Flamenco is that moment when pain and pleasure blend in an ecstatic confusion, a moment of experience that justifies the dirt and disorder and money-grabbing of the singer's workday world.

This intensity must be willed by both the artist and the audience: it suffocates in the dignity of the theatre, in the smoky irreverence of the night club. It requires for its fulfillment an audience with hungry eyes and greedy ears, an audience that has not been sated with the sophisticated sights and sounds and smells of the great Western cities.

Yet shadows of it can be captured anywhere by the artist whose dedication to herself rises above the need for any audience. They can be captured even in foreign lands, by such great Flamenco dancers as Argentinita or Pilar Lopez. A touch of that shadow—a sudden darkening in the home, as the Flamenco spirit snakes its way through tubes and wires and coils into the loudspeaker and over the carpet—has even been caught on a phonograph record, *The Joys and Sorrows of Andalucia*. And in the night clubs and theatres of Spain, where the dancers are near the African climate and thankless soil that are their inspiration, something more than the shadow may be seen. It is this something between the shadow and the substance that the traveler knows as Flamenco—and remembers forever, because even this half tone flashes disturbance, and fire. #



Left: American influence in Madrid night life, at the Pasapoga. Above: complications in the dance



The end of the last *corrida:* Manolo Gonzales steps back respectfully from the brave bull he has just killed

Manolo Gonzales dressing in his hotel before the fight. If the horns catch him, the thick gold uniform will help a little: a very little

THE COURAGE OF SPAIN

One art is Spanish and Spanish alone, the art of the bullfight. Here the pride and the courage and the fire and the love of drama are blended together to make the great spectacle of Spanish life, the sport of Death.

For the bullfight is a drama, as carefully staged as any work of theatre, and it is a sport demanding the muscular skills and extreme concentration of athletics. And Death waits always in the ring, because the bull does not know the fight has been staged and does not care for sports; he is present in the hope of killing.

The bull is four to five years old, the matador is sixteen to fifty; the bull weighs a thousand pounds, the matador from a hundred and forty to two hundred; the bull has never seen a cape or a sword or a bullfight before, the man has years of training and study and exercise and practice.

If the man were merely to kill the bull, put a sword in his gizzards, the sport would be equal between the contestants—each trying to get in the first, fatal stroke—and dull as grape juice. But the man must dominate the bull, invite him to charge and then—feet still, body still, wrist alone moving, swinging the cape away—pass the sharp horns by his body and turn again to face the baffled, vicious animal that has no thought, no ambition but killing. On these terms—the man in sport, the bull in earnest—the contest would not be equal. The bull would be too fast, too wild, too unpredictable in his charges; would kill any man who did not kill him quick.

So the bull kills a horse and before the matador comes on his *cuadrilla* of assistants take from the bull the first speed and wildness, and show how the animal is likely to behave. The picador rides in on horseback and, as the bull charges, puts his lance in the great hump of muscle between the shoulders; the *banderilleros* walk in, unarmed men facing the still wild bull, and set three pairs of short spears on either side of the muscle. As they work, the matador, watching from behind the fence, learns about his bull—learns if the bull will be brave and continue to charge under punishment or will retreat when hurt and make the matador come to him, increasing the danger; if the bull will hook to the right or to the left when the matador draws him past with the cape; if the bull will learn quickly about the man (the bundle, the Spaniards call him) behind the cape, and time his charges with the added intelligence that kills.

When the bull has been analyzed—and tired and slightly weakened—the matador steps out with his sword and his *muleta* (a heart-shaped cape hung from a long spear). He accepts the bull's charges, passes the horns by his body, turns the bull, leads him from position to position until finally the bull has been mastered, will charge only when incited, and will stand still with his feet together and an opening between his shoulder blades. Then, his conquest complete, the matador will kill. In his left hand he holds the *muleta* low; in his right hand he holds the sword high. Drawing the bull's head down and away with the *muleta* he runs in and leans or jumps over the horns—depending on his height—driving the sword between the shoulder blades and through the main artery to the heart.

In this moment, when the man is over the horns, the bull can kill him easily; if the wind blows the *muleta* up, so that the bull lifts his head, the man will certainly be gored. So there is in the ring a mystical trinity, a joining of man, bull and Death, and the Spaniards call this instant of mystery the Moment of Truth.

In the photograph above the moment of truth has passed. The bull, the last of the day, has dropped in an instant from a single stroke of the sword and the crowd has not yet had time to cheer. Here, in the moment of death that follows the moment of truth, the matador and the bull are still alone in the ring.

For the man, Manolo Gonzales, at 24 the leading matador in Spain, it is a moment of relief as well as of triumph, of gratitude to God and final tribute to the greatness of the bull. For his audience it is a moment of national ecstasy, the end to the experience that most closely touches the central dream of Spain. ##

MRS. FANSHAWE'S HEIR

She was dead, but her eccentric habits could live on; it was mine to decide

by Maurice Cranston

I do not often go to funerals, and perhaps that is why I remember the day Mrs. Fanshawe was buried better than the day she died. I was present at her death as her physician; I went to her funeral as her friend. She had died quietly, with little pain. She was seventy-eight; her heart was weak, and one afternoon when I was at her house it stopped.

The funeral impressed me. The rites of the English church were more effective than I had thought them: the bereaved were consoled, the indifferent stirred, and the mild, vague sadness I had felt at Mrs. Fanshawe's death was splendidly ennobled. She was buried in the parish churchyard, an honor which was hers as patron of the living. There were possibly a hundred people present, with an archdeacon and several lesser clergy to officiate. The archdeacon preached a short and tactful sermon which made no reference to the after life or Mrs. Fanshawe's very rare appearances in church. If it could be said to have a theme, it was that those who were living should live. When some of us went afterwards to Mrs. Fanshawe's house to drink Madeira and eat cake and smoke cigars with her relatives, we might well have felt that we were doing what the sermon had commended. The archdeacon was, in fact, among us.

The most solemn moment I remember was the appearance of Mr. Pearson with the will. It was suggested that members of the family should withdraw with the solicitor, while the rest of us were left to entertain ourselves, and inevitably to speculate about the will. My own suspicion was that Mrs. Fanshawe would have left one very large bequest and a lot of rather petty ones, partly from vanity and partly because she had always been both singularly lavish and singularly mean. As her doctor I had borne with this eccentricity. She would urge me to let her buy some fantastic apparatus for her health—a sun lamp or a steam bath or even an electrical horse—while I had the utmost difficulty in persuading her to protect her rooms from damp or to pay a shilling for a simple box of pills. She particularly resented spending money on ordinary fuel and light, and often I would call on her at night to find her sitting by an oil stove reading with a candle at her elbow.

She was a handsome woman for her age, not clean and not particularly cultured, but with flashes of intelligence and passion, proud, self-willed and unpredictable. She was interesting to talk to, as wealthy eccentrics usually are. I had always been a little afraid of her. I never dared show her my true opinion of her dabblings in oriental mysticism, of her mangy little dog, or the Raeburn portrait of her ancestor, the second Baron Fanshawe, which was over the empty fireplace in her bedroom, but I detested all three. Did I take too many pains to please her? It was not because I was her doctor and indebted to her for my fees, for these were never much. I was her genuine admirer and I liked her company, her talk and her bantering, boisterous fun.

The will did not take long to read, and soon I learned that I had been wrong. There were no little legacies, and Mrs. Fanshawe had made a splendid gesture: everything she owned was to go to her granddaughter, Barbara Perrier, and to Barbara's young husband Henri. The announcement startled everyone and disconcerted some, but I was pleased. The Perriers I liked better than any of Mrs. Fanshawe's other relations. Barbara was twenty-two, very pretty, always charming. Her husband was French and a painter and as young as she. They were both very much attached to Mrs. Fanshawe's house, a fine eighteenth-century place with all the impedimenta of Italianate taste. They were also very poor. Mrs. Fanshawe had hitherto been pleased to let Barbara and Henri live in squalor in Paris, for such a way of life appeared to her, as to many people who have never known it, utterly enchanting and romantic. It is difficult to conjecture what had led her to change her attitude when she came to write her will, but I suspected that she had done it chiefly for the pleasure of doing the unexpected.

I half wanted to con- (*Continued on page 204*)

"I make a motion we do all this again sometime"

NEW YORK:
SANTA'S HOME TOWN

A Travel Article by Richard Joseph

The giant wheel rolls faster on the endless round of pleasures, and the city gets dressed up for Christmas in its big bright lights

Christmas, of course, is the time to be home—but next to home, New York is best. The city gets friendlier and more neighborly, the hackies grow more talkative and their talk more wondrous, the cops become as genial as they look in the movies and even the Fifth Avenue bus drivers cease fire in their running feud with their customers. The result is a peace-on-earth (it's wonderful) mood which carries until about January tenth, when it melts with the rest of the New Year's resolutions. While it lasts, though, it's marvelous.

And Thanksgiving to New Year's is the vintage season for Bigtown, U. S. A. It's the time when the new shows are opening (and, sadly, sometimes closing) at the rate of two or three a week, when the streets are their crowdedest and the lights of midtown flare up their brightest against the night clouds hanging low over Times Square. In these few weeks the city's night life begins earlier and lasts later, bringing back the boom days of the Twenties when Prohibition and Texas Guinan were reasons enough to go out on the town. Fifty-second Street shows flashes of the place it was fifteen years ago when Swing was king and Louis Prima and Peewee Russell played and Martha Raye sang in the *boîtes* up and down the street from Fifth to Sixth Avenue.

Today, though, it's East Side, West Side and all around the town when a New Yorker goes out to celebrate. The East Side draws the so-called smarter set, to spots like El Morocco, Versailles, Larue, the Stork, Ruban Bleu, Blue Angel, Coq Rouge and Twenty One—which is a few feet West but definitely East Side in mood and manner. In these places the provender takes top billing and the name-guests are second only to the food and wine. The music, if any, is subdued and the dance floor so minuscule as to verge on the vestigial. The floor show consists mainly of the customers themselves: the columnists table-hopping and feuding, café society seeing who is with whom and occasionally who is punching whom. Sometimes the orchestra, which plays polite music, is augmented by a female vocalist, usually one with a following among those who would patronize the place anyway.

Over on the West Side things are different. The night clubs are larger and more brightly lit, and they give you dinner, two dance bands (one rumba, one fox) and a floor show featuring gags, glitter and girls for considerably less than dinner and wine would cost you on the smarter East Side. The customers are different, too. There's no café society at such night clubs as Lou Walters' Latin Quarter, Leon and Eddie's and the Copacabana—which is a few feet East but looks and acts West. Most of the New Yorkers you see at these places are in from Forest Hills, Flushing or Flatbush to celebrate somebody's birthday or wedding anniversary. The rest of the crowd are probably out-of-towners.

Extensions of the midtown *boîte*-belt are found uptown in Harlem and downtown in Greenwich Village. Harlem places such as Small's Paradise and the Savoy Ballroom are patronized mostly by jazz *aficionados*, as are Eddie Condon's, Nick's, Café Society and the Village Vanguard (which also has folk music) in Greenwich Village. Midtown meccas of the jive set include the Hickory House, one of the few unchanged landmarks of Fifty-second Street, and of all places, Childs Restaurant in the Paramount Building in Times Square.

For more restful drinking New Yorkers are likely to make their headquarters in one or several of the Third Avenue saloons made famous by John McNulty and James Thurber. The best-known of these are Tim Costello's and the Inkwell, but you'll find good companions and fey characters in almost any Third Avenue pub north of the Bowery Belt, where the taverns and their clienteles are apt to carry quaintness a bit too far.

New York's department stores and smart specialty shops present their Greatest Show on Earth from Thanksgiving through Exchange Day, December 26, the whole program getting under way with the traditional Macy's Thanksgiving parade. The Fifth Avenue windows of Saks, Lord & Taylor's, Bonwit's, Tiffany's and Jensen's rival one another in the luxury of their merchandise and the lavishness of their displays. Downtown, at Herald Square, Macy doesn't tell Gimbel, but both go and look at each other's windows with mingled rage and delight.

For New Yorkers Christmas is the time of homecoming and they jam the trains, planes, busses and highways, flocking back for another memorable season with the big bright lights. Somewhere over the Atlantic, Captain H. W. Atkin pilots his TWA Constellation on a night flight from Paris. In the dim light of the instrument panels his face breaks into a grin as he thinks of taking his four-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Joyce Ann, to see the various Santa Clauses at Macy's, Gimbel's, Stern's and McCreery's—and the stories he'll have to cook up to explain why there are so many different-looking Santa Clauses in so many different places at the same time. Two years ago he said that Santa was following them around the stores; last year he explained that the fattest one at Gimbel's was the real Santa and all the rest were his cousins, helping him out during the Christmas rush. But now Joyce Ann is growing up, and he'll have to find a better story.

Back aft in the main cabin of the plane all sorts of thoughts are running through the minds of the homecoming New Yorkers on the passenger list. An insurance man is thinking of the wonderfully alive crowds along Fifth Avenue and in his mind's ear he can hear the bells being rung by the Salvation Army Santa Clauses standing at their posts next to the iron pots boiling with nickels, dimes, quarters, halves and folding money being tossed in by passers-by.

Next to him on the plane a dress manufacturer is thinking of the round of office parties that precedes the holidays and knocks the week between Christmas and New Year's right off the work calendar, the time when buyers and salesmen, draughters and models, bookkeepers and shipping clerks, bosses and customers all get together as friends, and business is a pleasure.

Back home come New Yorkers on everything that moves—and all sorts of visitors ride with them. For a week or ten days New York becomes the youngest city in the world as bouncy kids from Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Harvard, Williams, Virginia, West Point, Pennsylvania, and a hundred other campuses join other bouncy kids from Smith, Welles- (*Continued on page 230*)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARTHUR LAVINE

A

Photographic

Appreciation

by

Eve Arnold

MARLENE

...still and always

SHE came to America in 1930, the bawdy café girl from the German film *The Blue Angel.* She was beautiful, she was sultry, and she was mysterious with a hint of the tigress in her languid eyes. There was a challenging scorn—of convention, of her own beauty, and of other women—in the remarks she made to a hungry press. And for Hollywood's downward-gazing tycoons there was a pair of legs that have gone unrivaled for twenty-two years. She was, in short, Marlene Dietrich. Today, incredibly, she is the same Dietrich, except that she seems to have more of what she brought over in 1930, with an added skill of creating the spoken and unspoken paradox that makes men spend some of their time despairing of women and the rest of their time chasing them.

When she first arrived to make American films, it was considered a cardinal sin for Hollywood ladies to admit that they had children. Dietrich had one, a baby daughter, and she let everybody know about it. All of a sudden, it became modish for sirens to be mothers. "Some of them even adopted children," she remembers. "It was very funny." It got even funnier when she became a grandmother a few years ago with no visible signs of deterioration, or lessening of the public's desire to see the famous legs which grandma was always willing to put on display.

Between the generations, she made a success out of a number of other incongruities. With her softly rolling Prussian accent, she purred frontier ballads like *See What the Boys in the Back Room Will Have.* She painted her legs gold and danced in a Technicolor absurdity called *Kismet.* She wrapped herself in ermine and played Catherine the Great, and with equal appeal, turned herself into a grimy gypsy for whose favors strong men fought with hunting knives.

Her most recent triumph is a collection of recordings derived from Prussianized American songs that she piped to Germany (via O.S.S.) for propaganda purposes during the last war. Under her throaty improvisations, such harmless Broadway nonsense as *Miss Otis Regrets* and *The Surrey With the Fringe on the Top* somehow become vehicles for the expression of tragic love. But here again, the show is all Dietrich and all good. There is, of course, a chance that she will some day be a great-grandmother, but even then she will be the same Marlene, and as long as the show is Marlene, it will always be good. ##

This idea of the "old-fashioned" Christmas has led to some customs which in twentieth century America are rather quaint

You can tell a lot about a man's character from his approach to carol singing

Murder under the Mistletoe

Woe to the man who says, Wassail **by Russell Lynes**

DRAWINGS BY ROBERT OSBORN

No sooner have we got rid of the Pilgrim Fathers than we woo the reindeer

One of the things Christmas has come to is the end of my rope

I wait until the last minute and indulge myself in an orgy of buying

She can read the music for the right hand, but her left hand is, as they say, a dreamer

A portrait of the author starting out on a crusade

Those fusshadgets who give a nice sensible muffler in the middle of summer

I WOULD like to enlist the support of all sensible men in a crusade. On the face of it my crusade may seem a simple one but as you will see, there are fearful odds against it. It is this: *I would like to see one day a year set aside for Christmas*—one fixed date one joyous holiday. I say the odds are fearful. You know as well as I do what happens to people who start trying to make sense out of the calendar.

There does, however, seem to be some precedent for my crusade. Those visionaries who are historically minded, as I am, may find some comfort in a quaint old saying whose origins are obscured in the mists of time. It is this: "Christmas comes but once a year." I believe that we can consider this slim sentence as evidence that there was once a time when Christmas did not start the day after Thanksgiving and end the day before New Year's.

There is little to be gained from an investigation of how and when Christmas slipped its moorings or how it grew from a single—if for parents interminable—day into five weeks of unmitigated tinsel, tissue paper, mistletoe and tippling. There is so little to be gained from it, in fact, that I suggest we get straight to the business of what Christmas has come to.

One of the things it has come to is the end of my rope. By the time the last glistening fragments of Christmas-tree balls have been swept off the floor, and the last spine of holly has been pulled from a child's bleeding finger, I am ready to greet the New Year with a shout of relief. The shout never comes, though; night after night of raising my voice in carols has reduced it to a rasping whisper. My head throbs with the memory of a hundred hearty greetings, each pledged in friendship and sealed with a toast. The party has gone on too long.

My lot, compared with the lot of many men, is uncomplicated. I am in an unseasonal business, so that there is no extra pressure on me as Christmas approaches. My children, while they no longer believe in Santa Claus, still believe in me. (They have long since found out that Santa is really me, and I can't help wondering who they will someday find out that I really am.) Christmas at our house is a relatively simple festival that starts with cries of joy at seven in the morning and ends *(Continued on page 210)*

DATELINE: TOKYO

Rye and riots at No. 1 Shimbun Alley, where the working press plays

by Keyes Beech

THAT newspapermen are often interesting people is a premise newspapermen will be the first to concede, and if the premise is sound it follows that some of the world's most interesting people have in recent years passed through the dingy portals of a unique raffish institution known as the Tokyo Correspondents Club. In fact, the most uninteresting people become interesting when subjected to the club's supercharged, often exhausting atmosphere.

The club, which recently sought respectability through incorporation, raising cries of alarm from some of the older, more anarchic members, has been for seven years the journalistic hub of the Orient. From its unwashed five-story building at No. 1 Shimbun Alley (Shimbun is Japanese for newspaper), correspondents of all colors, creeds, nationalities and degrees of eccentricity fan out to cover the Korean war, Hong Kong, Formosa, Southeast Asia and, of course, Japan itself.

Outside the United Nations building there is no more cosmopolitan group of working newspapermen in the world. During the lunch hour, an electrically charged period of fast drinking and conversation, you may hear without moving from your chair any of a dozen different languages: Russian, Greek, Turkish, Indian, Siamese, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Danish, Italian, French, Serbo-Croatian, Chinese, German, Korean, Japanese and English. What you hear most, however, is "Boy-san!" the word which calls the nimble white-coated Japanese bar boys from the bar.

English is the official language and all but a few correspondents speak it, but there is never any language barrier. The basic needs of the correspondent, such as food, drink and companionship, are universal, and anybody can learn to say "Boy-san!"

One day somebody asked a Turkish correspondent who spoke no English at all how he expected to cover the Korean war. "It is simple," he replied in German, stroking his lustrous brown mustache. "Soon the Turks will be here."

This same correspondent confounded the censors by submitting his copy in Arabic. Since censors are much less than linguists, they demanded that he have the story translated into English. It was finally done: he took it into German and somebody else took it into English, and when the work was completed the lead paragraph stood forth with classic simplicity: "I am in Seoul. Everybody is asking one question: 'Where are the Turks?'"

On June 24, 1950, the club was fairly quiet. Its gaudy postwar founding days were fading into fond reminiscence. Older resident correspondents who had helped found the club in the Fall of 1945 had succumbed to the joys of domesticity and were comfortably ensconced in houses surrounded by wives, babies and platoons of Japanese servants. Of the sixty-odd members of the Tokyo press corps, less than half lived at the club.

On June 25, 1950, the place was a madhouse. Correspondents heading for Korea converged on Tokyo from all parts of the world—from Washington, New York, London, Paris, Singapore, Tel Aviv, Rome, Calcutta, Hong Kong and way stations.

Among the Americans there were the expert craftsmen of World War II and other wars—the likable old master, Don Whitehead, and his running-mate, wise-cracking Hal Boyle, of the Associated Press; stocky Bob Vermillion of United Press, who was to jump with the paratroops and roll helpless with a broken ankle while machine guns and mortars raised to the ground around him; massive Bill Lawrence of the New York *Times*; Homer Bigart of the New York *Herald Tribune*, who was to find that his toughest competition was a girl reporter from his own paper; gaunt Phil Potter of the Baltimore *Sun*, who made the Inchon landing with a bullet wound in his leg rather than miss it, and almost lost the leg for his pains; Carl Mydans, who has photographed wars from Finland to Chungking, a gentle man in whom compassion lies close to the surface; and dozens of others. All of them were a little older, a little greyer, a little heavier around the middle, a little surprised to be seeing one another again—but happy, too.

There were scores of new faces, some of them about to make names for themselves—the fabulous Janes twins, Charles and Eugene, to whom everybody who wasn't a newspaperman or a marine was a "crum bum"; Marguerite Higgins, who happened to be in Tokyo when the war started and refused to be blasted loose from the story by her distinguished colleague Bigart; Frank Gibney of *Time* Magazine; John Davies, who wore the name of his newspaper, the Newark *News*, emblazoned on the back of his working clothes; handsome David Duncan of *Life* and Max DesFors of AP, two master craftsmen with a camera; Tom Lambert, tireless and ubiquitous; big, drawling Harold Martin of *The Saturday Evening Post* and many, many more.

Within two months three hundred correspondents were accredited to the United Nations Command. There were never that many in the theater at one time and there were never more than fifty in Korea at one time—a few never made it at all—but at one time there were more than a hundred living in the Tokyo Correspondents Club.

With only 25 rooms available, the club was running a hotbed dormitory. There was no privacy, but every man—and woman—had a bed. When I returned to Tokyo ten days after the war started there were five men in what had been my room. "It can't be helped," said Phil Potter philosophically. He could afford to be philosophical; he was in my bed.

There was, inevitably, some friction. An aristocratic Greek correspondent, his nostrils quivering with distaste, stalked from the club one day muttering something that sounded very much like "pigsty." He had been billeted in the same room with his mortal enemies, the Turks.

A Turkish photographer converted the shower on the fourth floor into a darkroom and locked the door against all comers. Since he spoke no English it was impossible to insult him.

Randolph Churchill, a man of impressive bulk and less impressive manners, came to the club and made one of the shortest appearances on record. He went to the bar and tried to sign chits without going through the formality of paying his $25 membership fee. When the Japanese bar boy refused to accept his signature, Churchill exploded. Club officials asked him to leave. Churchill subsequently returned to have his revenge—he hit the jack pot on the slot machine.

Weeks later, in a Taegu schoolhouse, I was awakened at dawn by the Churchillian voice asking if anybody had a spot of scotch. Even in that company it seemed an odd hour to be wanting a drink, but I reached into my bag and produced my last bottle.

"Save me a drink," I said.

I will never forget the look of outrage on Churchill's face when he heard this simple request. I didn't know until later that he had just returned from a patrol across the Naktong and was carrying a mortar splinter in his shin.

Total liquor consumption at the Tokyo Correspondents Club is a classified item, but the numbers are high. Most correspondents, upon arriving in Tokyo, feel they should celebrate before departing for the hardships of Korea. Other correspondents feel they should celebrate upon returning from Korea. Since correspondents are constantly coming and going, there is always a celebration. One correspondent telescoped this process by flying to Korea and returning on the same day, celebrating both arrival and departure. Sobering up, he was so overcome with remorse that he immediately flew back to Korea and spent six weeks at the front, turning out some of the best copy of the war.

Unworldly newcomers fresh from the States are likely to be spun dizzy by the club's social whirl. One walked into the club last summer and found a waggish Irish photographer, Jim Pringle, industriously setting off a firecracker under comedian Jack Benny. After the party he was mildly astonished to find himself in a geisha house with actor Errol Flynn.

"All in six hours after I got to Tokyo," he said, awed.

Celebrities have a way of getting lost in the shuffle. At a recent cocktail party Ambassador John Foster Dulles and two United States senators were seen wandering around, looking lost. They didn't know anybody.

On another occasion Tass correspondent Evgeny Egorov, a regular dues-paying member, was introduced to comedian Danny Kaye. Egorov blushingly apologized for never having heard of him.

"Oh, that's all right," said Kaye.

Informed that Kaye was a famous comedian, Egorov asked: "Is he as famous as Bob Hope?"

The club's most heroic blowout is its anniversary party, which occurs in November. Correspondents from such distant points as Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila have timed their arrival in Tokyo to be on hand for the anniversary. Less hardy souls have timed their departure from Tokyo to miss it.

In 1950 the U.S. Air Force obligingly set up a plane to fly correspondents from Korea to Tokyo for the party. Someone had thoughtfully provided refreshments aboard the plane. The result was that the correspondents reached Tokyo, but few of them reached the party.

My own introduction to Shimbun Alley came in May, 1947. I walked into a bar, ordered a drink and remarked a large dent in the bar rail.

"What made that?" I asked.

"Blodgett's head," a fellow drinker volunteered. "He called a paratrooper a [bad name] and the paratrooper picked him up by the heels and bounced his head on the rail. Didn't even dent Blodgett's head."

A few days later I observed what appeared to be a bullet mark on the elevator door of the fifth floor. I wanted to know what made it.

"Blodgett," a fellow resident supplied. (The name, of course, is fictitious.) "Somebody bet him a .45 couldn't shoot through the elevator door. As you can see, Blodgett lost the bet, which was a good thing for the elevator boy."

This incident resulted in a rule that no firearms would be displayed in the club, and Blodgett's .45 still rests in the club safe.

A more difficult case was that of the Australian correspondent who kept a box of hand grenades under his bed and defied all attempts to have them removed. In moments of great exuberance, and possibly in anticipation of future political trends, he hurled grenades through his window at the Russian billet next door. Fortunately, his aim was bad and the gren- *(Continued on page 198)*

The correspondents came from all over the world, with fifty different national tastes; the entertainment, which made everybody happy, was Japanese

MAN IN A TRAP

During the war I had a wonderful job for a time. I was supposed to be a coward. Naval Intelligence gave me the assignment and I have hardly ever enjoyed myself more. In my official capacity of heel, draft dodger and general bum I sailed myself around the remote islands of the Caribbean. Too many ships were being sunk by submarines in those waters, and submarines must surface somewhere to take on fresh water and charge their batteries. Obviously no U-boat commander would walk into a hotel in Puerto Rico or Martinique or Trinidad and ask for a nice glass of ice water. So my beat was the off-the-track islands. I had a powerful radio, a reasonable amount of canned goods and more cash. All I had to do was look dirty and unreliable and give everyone the idea I was one jump ahead of the police, meanwhile trying to find out if any unlikely characters had been seen on these beautiful lost land dots in the green-blue sea.

I never saw a submarine or a German. I thought I was going to drown, several times, as the Caribbean is a tricky sea, notably in the hurricane season. And twice I saved shipwrecked, sun-blinded, starved sailors who had washed ashore on the sand beaches of islands which are not even pin points on the map. I loved the sailing and the fishing and I loved my strange worthless islands. Then the submarines moved from that area and I got other jobs, not nearly so agreeable, but I kept thinking of the Caribbean and especially of the island of St. Ignace, a French possession which I am sure the French government must have forgotten long ago.

Three years after the war I married, but there was no time and no money for a honeymoon. We talked about a honeymoon, wistfully, the way some people talk about buying a convertible or a television set. My wife is a small-boat devotee, too, and she said she didn't care where we had our honeymoon; she only hoped we'd get it before we were going around on canes, because what she wanted to do was sail there, wherever it was. My wife was christened Lavinia, which is an impossible name for a long-legged merry girl with freckles and short sun-bleached hair, and since childhood she has been known as Pete, which is silly too, but not so silly as Lavinia. The only part of my life which Pete envied was my career as a coward; she thought it unfair of me not to have found and married her sooner, so that she could have posed as a mysterious spy and sailed the Caribbean with me, in the fine old days.

We had just about stopped discussing our future honeymoon, out of discouragement, when I got a letter from a lawyer. The letter made very little sense, as legal letters often do, but after some careful deciphering it turned out that my great-uncle Bertram, my grandmother's brother, had died in Butte, Montana, and left me a fortune. It might not seem a fortune to some, but it was eleven hundred dollars and fortune enough for our honeymoon.

All Pete said, when this glorious news emerged from the legal gibberish, was: "Get ready." Then, from the bedroom, where she was wildly throwing towels, cold cream and cooking pots into a suitcase: "Now the Caribbean," she said in a voice like a torch singer crooning of love.

A week later we joyfully closed the door of our apartment behind us. We flew to Barbados and hired a sloop from a colored fisherman, who was delighted to loll on shore while we coped with the winds. The boat was seaworthy, if soiled, unbeautiful and as comfortable as a bed of nails. It floated, which was all that mattered, and without any argument we set course for St. Ignace.

St. Ignace might not be everybody's cup of tea, but to me it seemed an excellent copy of perfection. The island is shaped like an erratic figure eight; on the western side is the harbor and on the eastern side a beautiful curving sandy cove, blocked by a reef. I had gone spear-fishing every day on this (*Continued on page 174*)

by Martha Gellhorn

ILLUSTRATED BY [illegible]

Evening wear calls for luxury and subtle individuality—here are details with the distinctive character to make you a perfectly groomed standout

A fine silk and cashmere evening muffler from Washington Tremlett, Conduit Street, London

Thomas Wing, Ltd., London, offers dress shirts with cavalier-like embroidered pleated bosoms

THE FORMAL TOUCH: *RSVP*

Shoes by Lefcourt, New York; brushed-leather slip-on with tongue and trim of patent leather

Soft as silk but of antelope skin is this bow tie and cummerbund made by De Pinna of New York

Light luxury for the long nights. Find a dinner suit in Midnight Blue and made of shantung—it's as sleek and comfortable as the shantung silks that made such a stir last summer. You'll want the single-breasted jacket with a shawl collar and you'll want accessories as individual as the ones you see on these pages.

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE esq.

→

Wherever there is a distinguished gathering there is liable to be Herbert Bayard Swope. His accomplishments range from four Pulitzer Prizes in journalism to the establishment of parimutuel betting in New York State. He has served his government on the War Industries Board and the Atomic Energy Commission. Many private concerns rely on him as a policy consultant. Handsome, erudite, a man of boundless energy, he has carved out a career almost unmatchable for its varied achievements.

(For answers to your dress queries send stamped self-addressed envelope to Esquire Fashion Staff 488 Madison Avenue New York 22 N Y)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD LITWIN

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY GILLETTE

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

Cartoon carousel
from twenty Christmases
with Esquire

DECEMBER, 1944
"You made some wild promises on this same corner one year ago"

"Just ta-ra, ta-ra, and not so much wah-wah!"

45

JAN

DEC

JANU

"Well, if it is Santa Claus, Miss DeVere, have him come down and register"

DEC

"I want to be sure—my husband gets so many things he never uses"

DECEMBER, 194

JANU

"Late again!"

SING FOR YOUR SUPPER

Fingermen on the Hand of the Law by *Irwin Ross*

To the public it looked like a case of brilliant sleuthing. Forty-eight hours after the movie starlet's jewels had been stolen, the three thieves were arrested and all the loot recovered. The detective who cracked the case became a hero. Actually, he had done nothing brilliant. An embittered ex-girl-friend of one of the hoodlums telephoned him the names of the three thieves. But she could hardly have been publicly commended. For she was that most secret of police instruments, the informer.

Although the fact is seldom confessed in public, the law has no more valuable collaborator than the criminal informer. The better detective is always the one with more and better "sources." To their cultivation he devotes considerable energy—and money, too, if he can lay his hands on it. Ingenuity and painstaking attention to detail are important in detective work. But it's usually a tip that breaks the case. "There's seldom a big case without a big sing," says a top officer of the U. S. Treasury.

The cops' reluctance to talk about informers is understandable. The relationship is confidential. Besides, stool pigeons are sometimes "developed" through methods that might shock a tender conscience. Finally, the cops are sensitive to a widespread public distaste for using "squealers"—a mistaken attitude, for the informer, whatever his motives, performs an essential public service.

The professional criminal is peculiarly susceptible to betrayal. He often has to have accomplices. If he steals something, he needs a "fence" to buy it. He must have frequent traffic with bail bondsmen and shady lawyers. He usually has a girl-friend from whom it is difficult to keep professional secrets. He often has ex-girl-friends who may be bitter. Any one of these individuals—moved by avarice, revenge, envy or whatever—can denounce him to the cops.

By contrast, many individuals are moved to become informers out of gratitude. A detective makes an ex-con a small loan, helps him find a job or shows him some kindness—a sort of long-term investment which will be repaid. A sheriff in a western state sent a bookmaker to the penitentiary for several years. He later discovered that the man's wife was destitute and tubercular. She urgently needed medical care, but confronted a mountain of red tape to get into a free state hospital. The sheriff worked on the problem virtually every free hour for a month and finally had her admitted. Her husband never forgot the sheriff's kindness. When he got out of jail he became an endless source of information on every phase of local criminal activity—everything but bookmaking.

How much society owes the informer can be seen in any major crime case—once the full story is revealed. Waxey Gordon, the flamboyant ex-beer baron who became a big-time narcotics wholesaler, was brought to book when an ostensible friend betrayed him. Treasury agents were able to nail Al Capone on the charge of income-tax fraud only after two of his former bookkeepers squealed. "Coke Flo" Brown, that fabulous bawd, helped terminate the American career of Lucky Luciano when she agreed to "sing" for Tom Dewey. The incredible saga of Murder, Inc.—the Brooklyn gang responsible for 1000 killings in a decade—was broken only after a mobster named Harry Rudolph talked. Eventually seven men went to the chair.

Sometimes an informer will serve up a ready-made case all set for prosecution. In the Fall of 1943 Kingdom William DeNormand tried to enlist the services of a professional "fingerman"—i.e., a specialist in spotting cargoes worth hijacking. The fingerman was reluctant to work with DeNormand but suggested that a certain truck driver might take the job. The truck driver agreed to DeNormand's plan—and promptly reported to the F.B.I. He was an ex-convict who had decided to go straight. The F.B.I. told him to string along with the gang. For two or three months the informer conferred with DeNormand's men as they considered possible jobs. Midnight on December 1, 1943, everything was in readiness to hijack two trailer trucks loaded with $100,000 worth of whiskey. The F.B.I. had a score of agents blanketing the area around the truck terminal. The five hijackers had no sooner bound and gagged the two truck drivers than they themselves were collared. They were sentenced to a total of 68 years in prison.

Informers fall into two broad categories—solicited and unsolicited. It is surprising how many individuals seek out the police with a titillating scrap of information. Such an unexpected source was Mrs. Anna Sage, the "woman in red" who fingered John Dillinger. Mrs. Sage, a hard-jawed matron who made a living running bawdy houses, shared a Chicago apartment with a young woman who was sentimentally involved with Dillinger. The gunman's moll did not know who he was, but Mrs. Sage knew. She gave the F.B.I. agents a complete fill-in and told them Dillinger was going to take the two women to a movie at the Biograph Theatre. When they walked from the theatre Dillinger was shot dead. Mrs. Sage was hustled out of town and was paid a $5000 reward.

Occasionally, an unsolicited informer will not reveal his identity. A former Assistant U. S. Attorney, trying a gang of bank robbers, received a phone call the day before the trial from a man who described himself as an acquaintance of the gang leader whom he hated because of some past betrayal. The caller would not give his name, but he outlined the defense's courtroom strategy—the fake alibis, the surprise witnesses. Next day the prediction stood up perfectly. Each successive day, the anonymous informer would again phone the prosecutor with an account of the defense's next moves, so detailed that the government could readily counter them. It was apparent that the informer was so close to the defendants that he attended conferences with their lawyers. When they were finally convicted, he again called—to congratulate the prosecutor. He was never heard from again.

Most informers, however, have to be carefully cultivated before they will talk. A detective will go to great pains, do countless petty favors and sometimes spend his own money to develop a good informer, devoting months to the effort. The technique is often a combination of cajolery, flattery and mild intimidation. The best prospects are criminals, ex-criminals or people operating on the fringes of the underworld.

The detective can never be fussy about his workaday associates. If he is concerned with burglaries or homicides, (*Continued on page 211*)

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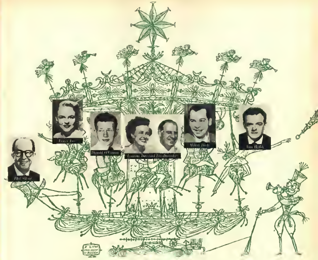


ESQUIRE'S CHRISTMAS GIFT CAROUSEL

This year Esquire's Santa Claus is sitting tall in the saddle, has a good grip on the brass ring (there's one for everybody on *this* carousel) and is ready—as ever—to lend a hand to one and all in finding what's new, what's unusual, what's best in Christmas gifts.

It's a taxing order, so Esquire has an added plus working for you this Yuletide season. Well-informed, original, and sophisticated as usual, Esky has eclipsed himself by empaneling a board of Christmas Gift Counselors made up of seven famous American personalities.

Ready with advice—brief and to the point—for the gift-wise as well as the gift-lorn, here is Esquire's panel of Gift Counselors: the men from TV and Hollywood, Milton Berle, Van Heflin and Donald O'Connor; the baseball team of Leo Durocher and Laraine Day; songbird Peggy Lee; and the top banana, Phil Silvers. It is a rare and illustrious roster of sage advisers of connoisseurs who have mastered the art of giving.

With their help, Esquire has prepared a six-page gift section of the *ne plus ultra* breed: a colorful—even fabulous—selection of special "with-all-my-love" gifts for fathers and sons, belles and bachelors, and friends and relations. The whole idea is to help you find the right answers to your most personal Christmas shopping problems. Moreover, we hope we will let you in on some wonderful gift ideas that you might have missed. One thing is sure: we know you'll enjoy your ride on this carousel.

Just a word of caution: The prices herein quoted are approximate and, of course, are subject to change. Starred (*) prices include the federal tax; the daggered (†) prices do not. All street addresses given are in New York City. If you have shopping questions drop a line to Esquire's Features Department, 488 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York.

Casual comfort: Valley Upholstery's side chair, cordovan finish, $139; bleached oak wrought-iron snack table, $27.50 for four, Mayhew, 603 Madison Ave.; electric clock with see-through dial, AC, $16.50†, Tourneau, 431 Madison Ave.

For a man's room: Crisscross floor lamp with polished brass base, $134; walnut dressing bench with a foam-rubber cushion, slide-top compartment, and hanger, $216, Hansen, 978 1st Ave.; twill silk robe, $165, Charvet et Fils, 18 E. 53rd St.

Entertainment focal point: Zenith's Sovereign console television set with large twenty-seven inch screen has a built-in antenna and one-knob tuning, and comes in a hardwood cabinet that is 40-⅛" high, 37-3/16" wide, and 24-5/16" deep, $495

Photographic miracle: Hasselblad camera, from Sweden, with 80mm f2.8, 135mm f3.5, 250mm f4 lenses, view finder, roll film magazine, extension tubes, tripod revolving top, $1349.75 complete, Willoughby Camera Store, 110 W. 32nd St.

Jewelry accents: Gold money clip, $215*; gold sapphire tie clip, $70*, Trabert & Hoeffer, 407 Park Ave.; key chain, $170*, Brand Chatillon, 703 5th Ave.; watch, $575*, Tiffany, 5th Ave.; sapphire-set gold links, $185*, Cartier's, 5th Ave., 52nd St.

Well-kept bar: Wrought-iron bar with marble top and lower glass shelf, $180, Branrea, 902 1st Ave.; stool, $16; pretzel wheel, $7.95; cane-wrapped glasses, Bar Mart, 62 W. 45th St.; Libbey's pilsners, decorative glasses; Easway's cap opener, $5

Brass Rings for FATHER

MILTON BERLE

Esquire Gift Counselor

"Since Dad has all the usual things," said
Milton Berle, "when it comes to him at Christmas,
shoot the works." The great TV Clown has
in mind those surprising, special,
often expensive but never unreasonable gifts
that will please the old man all year round.

Barbecue boons: Ceramic coffee urn holds 1 gallon, $18.50, and matching casserole, $10.95, Hammacher Schlemmer, 145 E. 57th St.; tools, $5.75; pepper mill, $8.25, New Design, 33 E. 75th St.; cups, $2.35 each, Abercrombie & Fitch

Drinking companions: Glass-topped bar cart with lower shelf made of Formica, $255, Hansen; plastic-lined, copper ice basket, $9.95, Bazar Français, 666 6th Ave.; sea-green Italian glasses, House of Italian Handicrafts, 217 E. 49th St.

Geared for horsemen: Forward-seat saddle, pigskin and rawhide, $225 complete; riding boots of calfskin, made to your order, $80; worsted glen plaid jacket, $65 to $75; silk ascot, $5, all from the saddlery of M. J. Knoud, 716 Madison Avenue

Holiday for hunters: Zipper vest, $18.50; wool shirt, $13.95; over and under 20-gauge shotgun, $405; high-power bolt-action repeating rifle, $498.65; and red leather hunting cap, $5.50, all at Abercrombie & Fitch, 360 Madison Ave.

Companions in leisure: Rudge bicycle equipped with three-speed gear and Dyno hub combination, tool bag and tools, $92.50; a portable bar, fitted with chrome accessories, in tan rawhide case, $190 complete, Mark Cross, 5th Ave. and 55th St.

Craftsman's trophy: Stanley Tools oak cabinet includes all the tools to make a handy man handier—hammers, rule, drivers, drills, brace and bits, nail set, planes, chisels, and a soldering iron, $115, Patterson Bros., 15 Park Row

... and for a MAN'S MAN

VAN HEFLIN

Esquire Gift Counselor

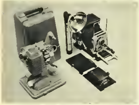
A man may take his leisure many ways—in a
field with his gun and dogs, in the basement
with plywood and tools, or simply in a
comfortable armchair with a long drink. "But
know the man," said Van Heflin, "and give
him a gift that says 'ease up'!" Amen, we say.

Skier's special Wind-resistant nylon parka, $10.50; ski boots of elephant-calf leather $55.50; goggles, $1.70; steel ski poles, leather grips, $9.50; laminated hickory skis, $65; wool gabardine cap, $3.75, all at Norse House, 57 West 46th St

Place to plan and study Oak finish desk, satin chrome frame, 30" wide x 60" long, $280 with tray unit, wire shell chair, $33.45, both at Easter Associates, 104 E 38th St; 21" three-rod desk lamp, satin chrome finish, $63, Hansen

Reservoir for refreshment Servel's Electric Wonderbar refrigerette is portable, and has a capacity of two cubic feet, enough to hold succor for the snack-hungry. It comes in a mahogany case, AC or DC, $149.50; legs are additional

For the man about town or campus Hand-woven jacket of fine imported shetland wool, $125; cashmere-hair shirt, $14; V-neck sleeveless sweater of cashmere, $19.50; gabardine slacks, $35, all from D'Andrea Brothers, 17 W 50th Street



For the camera-minded Revere's "85" projector for 8mm movies, 500-watt lamp, 300-foot reel, f1.6 lens, slipover case, $124.50, Willoughby; Graflex's Speed Graphic press camera takes 120 roll film, speeds to 1/1000 of a second, $327.50*

Picnic prerequisite Wicker basket comes outfitted with complete service for four, including cups and plates, knives, forks, and spoons, as well as two thermos bottles and two containers for food, $49 complete at Abercrombie & Fitch

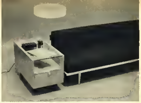
Brass Rings for a YOUNG MAN

DONALD O'CONNOR

Esquire Gift Counselor

Donald O'Connor, a young man who dances, sings, acts and does everything on his own TV program except douse the lights after the show, has one phrase for this gift business: "Imagination—and a quick decision." And that's all there is to matching the right gift with the right young man

High lights on the subject of giving Black and white lamp, leaf motif, $59.95; lamp with decoupage design, $159, one with apple design, $59.95, all at Ovington's, 666 5th Ave; magazine-rack end table, $19.95, Lampland, 579 6th Ave



For living room or den Glass-top end table, built-in fluorescent lamp, $206.20; foam rubber day bed with natural birch frame, $275, Easter Associates; brass-studded calfskin cigarette box, $17.95, matching lighter, $13, Hammacher Schlemmer

Hosting helps Rattan table has convertible glass blocks (inverted they become serving dishes), $79, Mayhew; pewter mugs, $49 and $11, and Spode china, $91-$95.50 doz., Ovington's; plywood servers, $15-$20, Georg Jensen, 667 Fifth Ave

Man sized tools for the man of the house Six piece stag-handled bar set, $49.50, Mayhew; set of 9 steak knives with capehorn handles and stainless steel blades, $57.50*, Mark Cross; stainless steel carving set, $39.35, Abercrombie & Fitch

Home-keeping hearths Black steel mesh fire screen with fold-down front piece for easy accessibility, $25; three-piece black steel fireside set, $25; log holder fashioned of canvas and wrought iron, $19.50, all f.o.b. from Easter Associates

For auld lang syne Crystal punch bowl, twelve inches in diameter, $45, and punch cups that will each hold two ounces of Yuletide libation, $72 a dozen, Dirilyte ladle, $12.50, all from Black, Starr & Gorham, 48th Street and Fifth Avenue

Esquire Gift Counselors

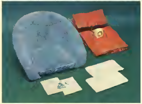
LEO DUROCHER AND LARAINE DAY

. . . *and for a FAMILY tree*

Laraine and Leo, a couple of Giant fans, think a family gift ought to have family uses. "It ought to be for man and wife together," say they, and "underline the *together*." All of which is sound advice when you are shopping for one gift to please two people

Femininity: Gould's table, $39.50; ash tray, $20, Georg Jensen; tiles, $7.50, Hammacher Schlemmer; dish, $37, Italian Handicrafts; lamp, $95, Idella La Vista, NYC 19; bread basket, $10, Branrusi; bowl, $5.50, Seth & Jed, New Marlborough, Mass.

To do service on the sideboard: Hand-painted coffee urn, from Holland, 24-cup capacity, $97, and matching 2-cup urn, $15.50, Lewis & Conger, 45th St. and Ave. of Ams.; ceramic salad bowl, ebony tools, $22.95, Hammacher Schlemmer



To catch a woman's fancy: Custom chenille back rest, $64.50, Lewis & Conger; General Electric's electric blanket with temperature control, $57.95; two satin sheets (double-bed size), matching pillow cases, $31.95, Scintilla, Chicago 40, Ill.

Graceful serving: Four-in-one buffeteer for crepes Suzette, soup, $59.95, Bazar Français; glass vase, $22, white ceramic vases, $7 and $8.50, Georg Jensen; Russel Wright dinnerware, $9.95 for 16-piece starter, Marshall Field, Chicago

For your fairest of them all: Vanity table finished in oak with a built-in fluorescent light and ample compartments for cosmetics at either end, topped with good-sized mirror, $335; birch vanity stool finished in walnut, $41, both by Herman Miller

Loungeables: Honan silk blouse, $30.95, red velveteen slacks, $30.95, topped with narrow conch belt, $3.45, French wine steward's belt, $5.45, all at Brett Winston, 29 E. 48th St.; Gustave's rhinestone and mother-of-pearl slippers, $25.95

Brass Rings for a LADY

PEGGY LEE

Esquire Gift Counselor

Of course, it all depends on the lady, but
you can't go wrong with the very sage
Christmas thoughts of Peggy Lee, the girl with
honey in her voice. Said she: "It's the
most beautiful of holidays and a
girl always likes harmony." So be it, above.

Designed for Moderns: Black steel mesh table with glass top, $65, New Dimensions, 130 W. 23rd St.; ceramic vase inlaid with silver, $65, Georg Jensen; plates inscribed with recipes, $24 for 6, Carole Stupell, 507 Madison Ave.

Bar complements: Silver-plated ice bucket, $95.40*, capahorn opener, $8.70*, and corkscrew, $21*, Mark Cross; decanters, $23.50 and $7.75, Georg Jensen; Royal Netherlands crystal, $6 to $8 each; polkadot glasses, $28-$30.50 dz, Carole Stupell

Movie makers: Bell & Howell's 16mm magazine-load movie camera, with regular and 2-in 1.4 telephoto lenses, $435†; Eastman Kodak Cine-Kodak Royal 16mm movie camera, f 1.9 lens, $176.25; 8mm four-speed movie camera, by Keystone, $89.50

Potable presentation: Cellarette of fine liquors, including rye, bourbon, gin, scotch, as well as wines and liqueurs, in the spirit of the season, $65.30, from Sherry Wine & Spirits Co., Inc., 679 Madison Avenue, or from your local dealer

Desk details: Sheaffer's onyx desk set, $75†, and gold-filled pen and pencil set, $45*; Ronson's table lighter, $15.40†; and library set encased in calfskin decorated with a fish-fly motif, $6.50, matching table lighter, $16, Hammacher Schlemmer

For clothes-conscious men: Imported silk shirt, $18.50, John Northman, 11 E. 57 St.; broadcloth shirt, $11.50, Teppel Inc., 4 East 57th St.; silk tie, $12.50, and imported blue and red velvet tie, $50, Bronzini Ltd., 5 E. 52nd St.

... and for FRIENDS and RELATIONS

PHIL SILVERS

Esquire Gift Counselor

Phil Silvers, the top banana who carries an
entire Broadway show entitled *Top Banana*
on his own quivering shoulders,
suggests in the form of a motion that "We
all ought to be good to our friends—after all,
we made them." Motion carried unanimously.

CHRISTMAS TINSEL

DRAWINGS BY CARL ROSE

by Bennett Cerf

For more years than they care to remember the big shots in the American Association of Writers of Christmas Anecdotes adhered manfully to the rule that no applicant could qualify for membership until he told in three successive Yuletide seasons the story of the ferocious urchin who stamped up to a department-store Santa Claus, kicked him wickedly in the shin, and snarled "That's for last year."

The A.A.W.C.A., however, has kept step with progress in other quarters, and today it is sufficient for an apprentice to prove only that he's done right by his little tell of the kid at Macy's who spent fifteen minutes one morning listing the gifts he hoped to find under his tree. "Better write all this down," he warned, "or you'll forget sure as Lucy Monroe will sing *The Star-Spangled Banner* somewhere within the next eight minutes." "Not a chance of my forgetting, son," the Macy Santa assured him. "My memory is infallible." An hour and some shopping later, however, the kid's mother took him across the street to Gimbel's where another jolly Santa held sway. Santa beamed at him and inquired, "Shure me bucko, and what is it ye'll be wantin' for Christmas?" (He was a Claus-mate of Tim O'Toole at Dublin University.) The kid shot him a reproachful look, reached up and yanked off his whiskers and bellowed, "You dumb jerk, I knew you'd forget!"

The Christmas gift every little boy craves most is an electric train—or at least that's the theory of fathers who like to operate the trains themselves. One kid didn't get to play with his train until unselfish daddy went out to a New Year's Eve party. He probably was the same lad who didn't touch a plate of asparagus set before him at dinner one evening. "Don't tell me you dislike asparagus," said a guest. "On the contrary, I adore asparagus," the lad asserted gravely, "but I can't start eating them until daddy bites off the tips." Back in the days of the stock market crash (the 1929 one, that is), one little fellow reminded his pa, "Don't forget you promised me an electric train for Christmas this year." Pa looked up from a mournful study of that day's break and assured him, "If you'll only wait another couple of weeks, sonny, I'll give you the New York Central!"

In one of his more playful moods, the late George Bernard Shaw sent a beautifully wrapped Christmas box to a glamorous young actress named Lilli Palmer. The beautiful Miss Palmer had just achieved stardom and Mr. Shaw's note accompanying the Christmas box read, "I understand you open at the Savoy on Christmas Eve. Wear this and your audience will be entranced." Eagerly Miss Palmer unwrapped the beribboned package. The box was empty.

Though nobody can be too choosy at Christmastime, the big department stores have exercised great care in selecting the Santas for their toy departments ever since one of them turned out to be a chronic sufferer from Claustrophobia. The president of one mammoth merchandising mart in Philadelphia demanded of a candidate, "What previous experience have you had essaying this exacting role?" The candidate boasted, "I was Kris Kringle in Minneapolis in 1948, in Des Moines in 1949, in Santa Barbara in 1950, and in Walla Walla in 1951." "That's not good enough," decided the president of the emporium. "We've got to have a Santa here who's had at least one season on Broadway!"

The lives of film and TV personalities are different from those of ordinary mortals. Take the matter of Christmas shopping. Richard Carlson accepted a fat part in the Chicago company of *Mr. Roberts* though it meant closing his Hollywood home and moving his family to Chicago. On October 1st, eve of the family's departure, Dick's wife, Mona, told friends, "We'll have our hands full getting settled in Chicago, so I bought all my friends' Christmas presents this week." Lucille Ball, whose "I Love Lucy" is now the number one TV program, regarded Mona with wonder and demanded seriously, "But my dear, how do you know who your friends will *be* by Christmastime?"

A little girl was having a hard time in Brentano's selecting a book to be given her mother as a Christmas gift. She wandered around the aisles, looking at book jackets, sometimes even looking inside the books and shaking her head. Finally one of the clerks came over, bent down, and heard her problem. "Well," he said in his cheeriest Santa Claus manner, "we can handle that. What does she like? Does she like fiction?" The little girl shook her head. "Biography? History? Books on art? Poetry? Travel? Humor?" The little girl continued to register her disapproval. Finally, the exasperated clerk demanded, "Well, what on earth does she like?" The little girl said, "Men."

The wife of a Texas oil millionaire decided to give her spouse a new sixty-eight-foot yacht for Christmas. She instructed the salesman, "I want this to be a surprise. Be sure to wrap it so he can't guess what it is." A wife in Cleveland called to her husband, "Last year we sent mother a chair. What do you think we ought to do for her this year?" The husband called back, "Electrify it." When a Hollywood agent told a pal he'd given his lady love imitation pearls three Christmases running, the pal suggested, "Just for a switch, why don't you give her an automobile this year?" The agent answered, "Are you out of your mind? Who ever heard of an imitation automobile?"

The chairman of the membership committee of the Knights of Pythias chose an evening in early December to exhort his cohorts to go all-out in their drive for new candidates. "Remember our great dream," he begged. "*Fifty* new Knights before Christmas!" On the night before Christmas in one luxurious home in Fort Wayne, a fond father struggled into a Santa Claus outfit, made his way up the slippery roof and slid down the chimney. He landed in the living room in a shower of soot, and was rewarded for his efforts by a fond kiss from his wife. The youngest son clapped his hands gleefully and exclaimed, "First the iceman, then the television repair man, and now Santa Claus!"

Talk about stock-market debacles reminds me of a nice story involving the glamorous opera star of yesteryear, Mary Garden, and her father. Every Christmas the father disdained her suggestions of a new automobile or what-have-you and insisted, "If it's all the same to you, my dear, I prefer cash." The sums he suggested never were modest ones. Then came the disastrous Wall Street break and Miss Garden's fortune was swept away, and an unhappy lady she was—until Christmas morning, when a check arrived from her father. The check represented every dollar she ever had given him—plus interest—with a note that read, "Happy holidays, darling. I've been saving this for you for a rainy day."

Christmas day, 1951, had come and gone, and on the evening of the twenty-sixth Mr. Andrew Bemish sat back in his favorite chair, content in the knowledge that once more he had proved himself a good husband and father. His wife and daughter had received every present they even vaguely had hinted they were craving. Mr. Bemish had picked out the gifts personally, and sat by benignly while they opened each expected gift with appropriate gurgles of surprise. Now the house was empty. So, as a matter of fact, was Mr. Bemish's pocketbook. Proceeding on the theory that Christmas comes but once a year, he had shot the works.

Whatever it cost, he thought, it was cheap at the price. That, after all, was the reason a man worked—to give to his family every little thing their little hearts desired. He felt a profound satisfaction as he thought of their complete, unblemished happiness. This pleasant reverie was ended by the arrival of his womenfolk, who rushed right into the living room and regarded him with delight. "What have you girls been up to?" teased Mr. Bemish. "I hope you haven't been exchanging all those presents you made it clear I was expected to give you."

"Don't be silly," giggled Mr. Bemish's daughter. "Mom and I have just been down at Bergdorf-Goodman's picking out our gowns and hats for Easter!" ✱✱

DEATH
and the
SKYLARK

An ocean-going schooner carried a cargo of suspicion and fear **by Roy Huggins**

If it hadn't been for the yachts tied up at its long row of slips, the Los Angeles Yacht Anchorage would have looked like an abandoned fish hatchery. But the yachts were there, and as I went on down the floating boardwalk looking for the *Skylark* I began to wonder if it wasn't about time for me to raise my rates.

"The *Skylark*'s a fore-and-aft schooner," the man at the lunchroom had told me. Which didn't really help me very much. I wouldn't have recognized a fore-and-aft schooner if one had sailed right through my living room.

But about halfway down the walk I slowed to look at a boat that seemed somehow different from the rest, set low and long in the water with slender lines and two high masts and woodwork that appeared to have taken the polish of loving hands for a century or so. I looked for a nameplate and couldn't find one, but there seemed to be someone aboard back at the stern.

I stepped down onto the narrower walk that ran alongside the ship and went on to the boarding ladder. Someone was there all right—a paunchy man in faded denims and a cork hat. He was sitting in a deep-sea fishing seat attached to the deck and reading a paper that looked suspiciously like the *Wall Street Journal*.

I waited to see if he'd look up, and when he didn't I called out, "Could you tell me where I'll find the *Skylark*?"

"This is it," he said, peering down at me over his shoulder. He had the uneven, rumbling voice of a man who has grown fat in his fifties.

"I'm looking for Glen Callister," I said.

"I'm Callister."

"I'm Bailey. Thought you'd be expecting me."

"Oh!" He stood up quickly and came over to the rail. "I was expecting a man more my own age. Don't know why exactly. Come on aboard."

I came aboard.

Glen Callister turned out to be a smaller man than he looked from the walk, only five feet six or less, with a barrel chest and legs that wanted to bow just a little. He shook my hand, gave me a pleasant smile that said he'd forgive me for being the wrong age, and suggested we talk down in the "main salon."

The open companionway was about at the center of the ship, the cockpit just a few feet back of it. I went down the steps first and Callister gestured toward a door at the end of the passage. He squeezed past me at the door and opened it, and I followed him into a room that was as unexpected as *crêpes suzettes* at a picnic.

It was a large room filled with sun from a center skylight and the odor of fine scotch from a built-in bar. There were couches in soft beige on two sides of the room, a built-in refrigerator paneled in Philippine mahogany, a fireplace with a polished copper chimney, and a square grand piano attached firmly to one of the bulkheads.

Callister indicated one of the couches and carefully closed the door. He crossed the room and closed another door to what appeared to be the galley, came back to the center of the room, and glanced anxiously up at the half-open skylight. He took off the cork hat and sat down, running a hand through his silver-white hair.

He coughed shortly and said, "Well, what's the good word? Making the trip with us?"

"I'd like to, yes," I said, making it sound more like "Maybe."

"What does that mean?"

"I've got a few questions to ask."

"Shoot. No, wait." Once again he peered up at the skylight, stood up and walked out of the room. While I waited I took his letter out of my pocket and re-read it for the fifth time.

The letter had dropped through my office mail slot the afternoon before. It said simply and dispassionately that he was making a trip to Honolulu on his schooner the *Skylark*, with himself as captain, and that he expected to be killed on the voyage. The murder would be attempted either by his wife or his first mate, he wasn't sure which. He had recently discovered that they were "carrying on illicitly behind my back." He wanted to know if I would come along and keep an eye on Madden—that was the first mate. If so, I was to come down and see him the next day. That was all.

It had taken the rest of the day for me to consider the letter seriously. By the time I got to bed I was beginning to think it could just be, and the next morning the notice for the office rent arrived. I decided it couldn't do any harm to go down to the harbor and see what it was all about.

I was putting the letter away when Callister came back. He had closed the skylight. He shut the door carefully again and said, still standing, "All right, you had some questions."

"The first one's pretty obvious. If you know one of them's going to try to kill you on this trip, why make it?"

"I never ran away from a fight in my life," he said matter-of-factly.

"You say one of them intends to kill you. Don't you know which it is?"

He sat down. "I don't think I'll answer that one yet."

I let that pass. "If Madden intends to kill you, do you think having me aboard will stop him?"

"Do you?"

"No."

"Do you want the job?"

"I'm not sure I made myself clear."

"You made yourself clear in exactly the way I hoped you would. No one could guarantee anything on a job like this. Do you want it? You'll be passed off as a business associate. We don't talk business on the *Skylark*, so you won't have to worry about that."

"Sure," I said. "I'd love to make the trip. Will your first mate be able to sail the boat after he rubs you out?"

Callister just looked at me blankly for about ten seconds. Then he suddenly exploded in a laugh that came from the belt up. He laughed painfully for a full two minutes.

He stood up, and, still fighting a little for breath, pulled a folded check from his pocket and handed it to me. It was a cashier's check for five hundred dollars made out to cash—a very handsome and discreet retainer.

He was getting ready to laugh again. "Be here Tuesday morning at nine," he managed, slapping me on the shoulder. "We're going to have a fine trip."

I could still hear him laughing when I stepped down onto the boardwalk to go back to my car.

Tuesday seemed a long time coming around, but it did, and at nine sharp I climbed onto the deck of the *Skylark* with my suitcase and shave kit. A man's head poked up from the companionway and a pair of moody eyes gave me a quick sizing up.

"Mr. Bailey?" he asked, politely enough, and I was grateful to him for asking it—for all I knew Callister had supplied me with a new name to go with my status as a business associate.

I told him I was Stuart Bailey and he said he was Owen Madden and came on up to shake my hand. He was wearing jeans and a T-shirt and no hat. The wind had been doing just the right thing with his dark curly hair, giving it that careless, ungroomed look that is a sheer deadfall for a certain kind of woman. He was an inch taller than I, as lean as an antelope, and wearing a tan that you can get only by mixing plenty of salt and wind with your ultraviolet. He looked about twenty-eight.

He took me below and opened a door at the right of the steps showing me a room with two bunks, a wide chest of drawers, and not much else. "We bunk in here. The head's just across the passage. Shower, too."

I put my stuff on the floor and he offered to show me the rest of the boat.

The master's cabin was at the stern, a larger room with its own shower. The Callisters had already moved in—there were some shirts and denims on top of a cabinet not yet put away, beside them several pipes, a ball of white string, and a book on fishing.

Next we went to the lounge, which Madden called the "gingerbread hatch," and then to the galley, which had a big old-fashioned wood stove in it, a large refrigerator, and space for one person—if he didn't breathe deeply.

I looked skeptically at the stove and asked, "Who chops the wood for it? And where?"

He grinned pleasantly and said, "Burns Diesel oil," and opened one of the doors off the galley to a small room with a bed covered by a lacy spread.

"This is where I usually hang my sack," he said, "but I guess Callister thought I'd better bunk with you instead of with his daughter."

"The tyrant," I said. "I didn't know she was coming this trip."

"She always comes," he said noncommittally, and opened another door in the galley bulkhead to show me a gloomy, disordered space filled with canned goods. "Crew's quarters," he said. "When we carry a crew, that is. There's another hatch up there in case of emergencies."

We walked back through the lounge and up the companionway.

"Are we carrying a crew this trip?" I asked.

"Nope. We seldom do. She's a sweet boat, the *Skylark*. Bold and *(Continued overleaf)*

ILLUSTRATED BY WENDELL KLING

sea-kindly. Built fifty years ago when they really built 'em."

On deck he stepped into the cockpit and without wasting words got down to the business of explaining what would be expected of me. He showed me how to operate what he called the "Iron Mike," an electric pilot that did the actual work for the man on watch and explained that each of us would do a trick at the wheel four hours, then be off for twelve or sixteen, depending on how it worked out. Callister, he said, insisted on having the 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. trick, so he could sit in his fishing seat and try to reel in an albacore or barracuda for the table.

"Ever taken a trip this long on a schooner?"

"The closest I've ever been to a schooner was at Joe's Bar & Grill."

"You'll enjoy the trip," he said. "I been hanging around boats for ten years—since I was fifteen—and I never saw a boat as sweet as this."

"You're pretty young to have first mate's papers."

"That's a laugh. The skipper calls me that, and treats me like it. But I'm a seagoing bum, period."

He went back to the briefing then, and he was showing me how to lash the wheel when a girl came aboard. I saw her before he did; she walked along the float with a long clean stride, and she was wearing white shorts and the air of easy self-confidence that you get with a figure like hers. When she came over the side Madden looked up and greeted her casually.

She smiled and said, "Hi! Everybody aboard?"

"Just me and Mr. Bailey here. This is Betty Callister, Mr. Bailey—the skipper's daughter."

She looked at me with a puzzled frown and said, "You're . . . I don't understand. Dad said he'd known you in business for over twenty years." She paused and added dryly, "You must have started young."

I wasn't sure, but I thought Madden looked at me sharply. I said, "The business used to belong to my father."

"Well, I think it was nasty of Dad not to prepare me for you. Where's Mrs. Bailey?"

"Did he tell you I was married?"

"As a matter of fact, he didn't."

"Then it's safe to tell you," I grinned. "I'm not."

"Maybe not so safe, either. A bachelor aboard. This is absolutely revolutionary."

"Oh? What category do you put me in?" Owen asked lightly.

Betty threw him a quizzical glance and drawled, "Now you don't want me to answer that, do you, Owen?"

And with that she turned and went below, leaving us standing there with nothing to say.

The morning was gone, the sun was high and hot, and the Callisters still hadn't put in an appearance. So I walked up to the Anchorage Café and had some lunch at a pale green table overlooking the Navy yard across the way. I was just finishing the third cup of coffee and wondering if I should take time for another when Betty Callister came in, glanced around, and walked over.

She sat down without being asked, and the proprietor came around from behind the counter saying, "Salutations, Miss Callister. What can I get you?"

"Just some tea, Harry."

"And I'll have another coffee," I said.

"Maybe I oughta just put the urn on the table," Harry said. "This is your fifth, ain't it?"

Betty shuddered. "How much of that stuff do you drink a day?"

"Never more than twenty cups."

"Doesn't it keep you awake? Twenty cups?"

"Well, it helps."

Betty laughed generously at that.

"Your father and mother arrive yet?" I asked, after Harry had served us.

"Don't let Eilene hear you call her that. You'll walk the plank. No, they haven't."

I waited for her to get started. She certainly hadn't come up for tea—she hadn't even bothered to pour any into the cup.

After a while she said abruptly, "What's this all about, Mr. Bailey?"

"What?"

"This trip."

"How do you mean?"

"That's what I'm asking you. Several days ago Dad said an old business acquaintance of his would be going along—a man he'd known for twenty years or more. That was why I couldn't go this time, he told me."

She was waiting for me, but I didn't say anything.

"Then you turn up. I'll give you ten dollars for every year you're over thirty."

"Want to pay me the twenty bucks now, ma'am, or later?"

She grimaced and said, "I'm serious. Dad always takes me on trips, no matter what. This time I had to threaten to do something horrible before he'd agree to let me go. Why? If you're an old business acquaintance, I'm Minnie Mouse."

"Well, Minnie, my relationship with your father is just what he said—business. We expect to work out a very important deal on this trip."

"You sound like you're telling the truth."

"I am."

She looked at me almost searchingly for a long moment, then seemed to relax. "Then—we might be seeing a lot of you—Dad, I mean."

"That depends on how the deal goes," I said, and almost choked on it.

"What's your first name?"

"Stuart."

"Mind if I call you that?"

"If we have to be formal."

"Well, mine's Betty, Stuart, and I think we should be getting back."

"Shall we take your tea with us?"

She laughed and said, "Never touch the stuff."

She had a nice laugh, easy and soft, and it did wonderful things to her face, putting a dimple into one cheek, deepening its warmth and color, and darkening the already dark blue eyes. Anyway, that's how it hit me as I stood there looking at her and hunting vaguely through my pockets for some change.

At three o'clock I was in my cabin putting things away. The door was closed because one of the things I had to put away was my .38 automatic and I was having trouble finding a likely spot for it. I finally settled for one of my shoes, and was just pushing a sock down over it when the Callisters arrived.

I stood up quickly, listening to the sound of their steps on the companionway. I heard a soft voice with just a touch of the lately-acquired in the accent saying, "Come on down, Owen. We're having a few Martinis first."

A moment later Callister's rumbling baritone echoed from the lounge with "Where's Bailey? Hasn't Bailey . . . ?" Apparently Betty broke into the question with the news that I was aboard and in my cabin, because five seconds later there was a brisk knock on the door.

Callister was standing there smiling broadly, a high flush darkening the pink of his face to a kind of lobster red. He seemed glad to see me. He clapped me on the back as I stepped out into the passage and asked heartily, "How d'you like your Martinis, Bailey?"

"With whiskey and soda," I said as we stepped into the lounge.

Callister got a big bang out of that and he stood there laughing, one hand on my shoulder, while I waited for him to introduce me to the blonde.

She was standing in the center of the room, giving me one of those terribly-at-ease goings-over—the chatelaine inspecting the peasants on festival day. She was a small woman with a round face, large brown eyes, and silver-blonde hair. She may have been only thirty or so and she thought she looked a good deal less, but there was something about the well-watched figure, the too carefully made-up face, that suggested the dark side of thirty-five. But beyond everything else she was a woman, and one who would never forget it for a moment. She would be making the most of it when people were wondering which side of fifty she was on.

In the meantime Callister had managed to say the right words and Eilene stepped forward and held out her hand, a little as if trying to make up for the going-over. She smiled slowly and gave me a look that went just a wee bit beyond the ordinary amenities of introduction. The way she clasped my hand was brief and proper, but she somehow managed to convey the impression of having held hands with me.

Betty, standing over at the bar, said, "How do you like your Martini, Stuart?" Mrs. Callister raised an eyebrow at the "Stuart" and Callister stole my joke. "With whiskey and soda," he chortled, and stepped over to the bar to make me a highball.

Still looking over her shoulder at me, Betty said, "Among other things I had to agree to be galley rat, pot-walloper and bartender, to be invited on this jaunt."

I started to reply, but Eilene stepped over, very casually got between me and Betty, and said, "Ever taken a trip like this before, Mr. Bailey?"

"No," I said, and curbed the impulse to ask, "Who has?"

Callister put the highball in my hand and Owen brought over two Martinis and gave them to the Callisters. Betty brought two more and gave one to Owen, and we were all standing there with drinks in our hands waiting for somebody to do the obvious thing.

Callister raised his glass, said, "Well, *bon voyage*, everyone," chuckled happily, and drank. Everybody joined him heartily, including Stuart Bailey, who didn't think for a minute he could keep the old boy from being given the deep six if anyone in this happy party had a mind to try it.

I was leaning back in the cockpit letting Iron Mike do the work for me, wondering whether this was the fourth or fifth day out, and watching the sun stain the water as it began its nightly drop into the drink.

Callister had just gone below after coming up to ask me if I was sure I didn't want a scotch and soda ". . . even if you are driving, hah hah!" He also wanted to tell me Eilene had been asking questions about me. He had told her I was a big manufacturer of experimental equipment. "That stopped her," he said, and followed it with his characteristic deep-bellied laughter. For a man who expected to be killed, Callister was having himself a great time.

Steps sounded on the companionway, and Eilene Callister stepped out onto the deck with a double Martini glass in one hand and the hem of her white evening gown in the other. She walked toward me, picking her steps because she was also wearing high heels, stepped down into the cockpit, and put herself carefully beside me with the air of one bringing largess. What she had brought was a heady odor of perfume that went very badly with the sea air.

I wondered if she had planned it this way, waiting until the failing light could give her face a kind of golden warmth and take all trace of hardness from it.

She said, very softly, "May I keep you company, Stuart?"

"Sure. I was beginning to feel neglected."

She looked at me from the corners of her eyes, smiled wryly, and said, "Believe me, if—if things were different, I'd see that you were never neglected."

That wasn't very subtle and I looked at her sharply and realized, seeing it in the set of her head and the careful (*Continued on page 150*)

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Death and the Skylark

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raising of her glass that Eilene was as Owen might have put it, "primed to the Plimsoll mark." Anyway she was a little drunk.

I didn't say anything and after a while she drew closer, turned toward me a bit more, and said in a little-girl tone of confidence, "Know why I like you?"

"No. Why do you like me?"

"Because you're modest. You never talk about yourself. My husband's been telling me about you."

"Always smarter to let the other fellow talk for you."

She smiled, looked at me, let the smile slowly go and just sat there. After a moment she put down the Martini and folded her hands in her lap and went on looking and waiting for me to get started. Finally she said, whispering now, "You know there's another reason why I like you."

"What's that?"

"Can't you guess?"

"Because I'm a man?"

Silence. And then she laughed a little, but it was strained and a trifle flat. She said "That wasn't very funny. It's because— well, you respect the fact that I'm married. Believe me any other man in the world would have been trying to kiss me by now."

"I'm sorry, Mrs Callister. I'll try to do better next time."

Silence again, only this time it threatened to be permanent. "Are you," she finally managed in a tiny voice, "being deliberately rude to me?"

"Well, now that you mention it . . ."

That's as far as I got. Owen suddenly appeared in the open companionway, his eyes peering fixedly into the growing darkness around the cockpit. He stepped out onto the deck, and Betty followed him saying, "Thought we'd get some air. Owen's idea."

Owen scowled at her and walked over to the rail without saying anything or looking toward us.

"Well, if you'll excuse me." Eilene's tone was definitely cold now, unfriendly, and she picked up her Martini and disappeared with it below decks.

Betty came over and sat down beside me. "Hmmm. Hope we didn't interrupt anything." She said it loudly enough for Owen to hear and I glanced at her in faint surprise. There was more of the wench in Betty than I'd thought.

Owen turned suddenly and went below without a word.

"That'll be cozy. They're alone at last. Dad's in his cabin lying down."

"Take over for a second. Be right back," I said.

The door to the lounge was closed. I stepped over to Callister's stateroom door and listened. After a moment I heard the sound of his heavy breathing and turned to go down to the lounge door. I listened there too, but there was no sound at all from inside.

I quickly opened the door and stepped in. They literally sprang to their feet from the couch. Owen's mouth was smeared red and Eilene's face was grey beneath the garish color of her make-up.

"Sorry," I said. "We ran out of matches." I crossed to the bar, picked up a book of matches and started back. I took two steps and Owen suddenly came to life, moving forward with one long stride and driving a drop-hammer fist into my face.

I went down like a weight and came up with a grunting whoosh of sound against the refrigerator. He was standing over me with fire in his eye and both fists balled like a pair of brass capstans. "You didn't come down here for matches," he breathed, "and we both know it."

I didn't say anything. He was right, of course, and in a way I didn't really blame him. I hadn't liked doing it, but I had hoped to open the door on exactly that, in the vague hope that my having seen them might give one of them pause, might even change whatever plans had been made.

"How about stepping back a couple of feet," I said, "so I can get all the way up?"

He didn't move, so I didn't either, and after a minute of that Eilene stepped over in front of him and whispered something I didn't quite get. He shook his head but finally he moved, turning his back to me. Eilene turned and watched warily as I got to my feet. She put out a hand to my arm.

"Will you do me a great favor, Mr Bailey? I'm asking it as your hostess. Go back up on deck. And please forget what happened. Will you?"

"Tell *him* to say 'please.'"

Eilene stiffened as she heard Owen swing round again to glare at me. "Please, Mr Bailey," she whispered.

"You got it wrong. *He* says 'please.'"

She just stood there, her eyes moving from my left eye to my right and back to my left. "You're being childish."

"Sure. I'm just a big kid at heart. Tell him to say please."

There was a little more of the Wimbledon movement with her eyes, and she swung round to Owen. "Owen," she said tightly, "I don't want this to go on a second longer. I mean it. Do what he says."

Owen stared at her, and whatever it was he saw in her face carried authority, because he finally looked up at me, wet his lips and said "Please" in a tone that would have cut diamonds.

I went back up on deck and sat down again at the wheel.

"Everything all right below?"

"Shipshape."

"Cigarette?"

"Not right now."

"What's the matter?"

"Not a thing."

"Then you won't mind answer-

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Death and the Skylark

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ing a few questions, will you Stu?"

"Love to."

"I should warn you that anything you say may be held against you."

"It usually is. What's on your mind?"

"You, as usual. But don't get me wrong. I'm not an Eilene. I find you quite resistible, in a nice way."

I didn't have any comment.

"You said you and Dad were going to close a big deal on this trip."

"Uh-huh."

"Funny he doesn't know about it. You were lying."

"All right, I was lying."

There was an abrupt pause, and after a moment she said in a tone of surprise, "Well, we're getting somewhere. Has it something to do with Owen and Eilene? Are you a lawyer or something?"

"What are you talking about?"

"Please. You know what Eilene is and Owen's all gone on her. I'm sure Dad knows about it."

"Seems to me he's the happiest human aboard."

"I know," she whispered. "It's made me wonder. Maybe he doesn't know."

"Maybe there's nothing to know."

"Look, I'm all grown up now, and I'm waiting for an answer."

"Why I'm aboard?"

"Yes."

"Ask your father."

"I'm asking you."

"And I'm not answering. Ask him."

"I can't. He never talks to me. To Dad I'm still five years old. He treated Mother the same way." She sounded almost bitter.

"Do me a favor, will you, Betty?"

She nodded earnestly.

"Don't ask any more questions till we hit Honolulu. I might answer them then."

"There's nothing I can do to persuade you to tell me now?"

"You might try offering your fair young body. I'd probably break down."

"I doubt that very much. . . . All right, I'll wait, Stu, and—thanks for being honest with me at last."

I looked at her. She was lost in something out there across the bow of the ship. It had grown dark now and her profile was etched softly against the moonlight. I felt a sudden tightening at my throat. This could turn out to be a pretty rugged journey for Betty. Why had Callister allowed her to come?

She turned back to me and smiled slowly. "I know you were looking at me," she whispered. "I think it's the first time you have—really looked, I mean."

"It's the second. I still like it."

"Did Eilene make a pass at you?"

"No."

"You're very kind. Didn't work?"

"No."

"I didn't think it would. Well. Guess I'll go down and make with the scoffings—that's sea talk for chow."

"Take it easy on the salt."

"Yes sir. Easy on the salt. Is your name really Bailey? And are you really not married?"

"Yes, sweet. I'm really not. No more questions."

She made a face at me and got up and went below. And after she'd gone I realized I was alone up there with a million square miles of ocean all around me.

With the exception of a brief but violent squall on about the eleventh day, life aboard the *Skylark* settled down and became singularly uneventful and unusually pleasant. Eilene and her friend Owen behaved as if the little episode in the lounge had never happened. Generally we sat around on deck or in the lounge and talked at great length about everything but politics, religion, and ourselves. Now and then Betty would play the piano or Owen would pick up his guitar and sing sea chanties in an off-key baritone. And there was nearly always fresh fish from Callister's morning vigil in the fishing seat.

The squall came up while I was on watch, appearing suddenly off to the southeast—a great swirling bank of black cloud filling the horizon, picking up giant waves and dropping rain as it roared down on us.

I shouted for help and hoped I was doing the right thing when I turned the ship into the wind and lashed the wheel. Betty was on deck first, pulling me with her toward the bow and shouting something about jibs that I either didn't hear or couldn't understand. By the time Callister and Owen appeared the squall was on top of us and Betty's bawling orders at me had my full attention. We clawed and pulled at the crazed sails and finally, bruised and soaked to the skin, got them lashed tight with gaskets.

I couldn't see what was going on in the stern and started back there when Betty shouted, "No! Down this way!"

"Gotta give 'em a hand!"

"You'll be in the way! It's a . . ." The ship lurched sickeningly, and Betty went down on the bucking rain-washed deck. I stopped arguing and helped her down the forward hatch.

Eilene was sitting in the lounge, clutching the couch with knotted hands, her eyes sick with fear. Betty had stopped off at her cabin to change and I went on through without a word and started up the companionway. I stopped because Owen came stumbling down, clutching his left arm. He careened against the door of the head, opened it, pulled out a towel, wrapped the towel around his arm, and made his way into the lounge.

I followed him in and asked,

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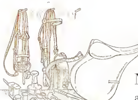

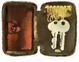

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Death and the Skylark

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"Where's Callister?" putting more sharpness into it than I had intended.

He was standing there holding the reddening towel. He looked at me surprised and said, "Reefing the jib. Why?" He sat down under a light.

I turned without saying anything and started out, but the door jarred open and Callister charged in, carrying a first-aid kit. He dropped his slicker onto the rug and stepped over beside Owen.

I stood there looking at him with infinite relief, realizing for the first time that I had become fond of the little man with the big laugh. I had expected never to see him again, not in this world anyway, and I had to get used to the idea that he was still alive and that Madden had skipped a fine opportunity to kill him. But then again, maybe Owen hadn't had the opportunity. Squalls have a way of keeping you wrapped up in the business at hand.

Callister had attended to Owen's arm and was putting a bandage neatly around it. He said, "Maybe this'll teach you to secure those stays a little better, especially the ones with blocks on 'em."

"Yeah," Owen said and glowered at Betty as she stepped into the room.

Callister grunted, gave the arm a final pat, and said, "Relax. That'll be healed by tomorrow."

"You're sure of that, huh?" Owen said skeptically.

"Yep. It's because you're young. But don't think me envious, Owen. Being old has its compensations."

Owen stood up and asked unpleasantly, "Yeah? What are they?"

Callister chuckled and said, "Well, for one thing, you don't have so long to live."

The remark was greeted by a dead silence and Eileen broke into it almost harshly with, "Well! Let's get this party on its feet! I'll mix 'em myself!"

Half an hour later the squall had blown itself out and the party was on its feet. Betty was at the piano, Owen was strumming along with her on the guitar, and Callister was on the couch with Eileen beside him holding one of his broad hands in both of hers. I was leaning against the bulkhead next to the piano, looking at all this and wondering what I was doing there.

And the next morning Glen Callister was shot through the back of the head.

My alarm was set for seven-thirty that morning because I was taking the eight o'clock watch, but something woke me about seven o'clock and I looked up, expecting to see Owen up there in his sprawled sleep. His bed was empty.

I threw off the covers, pulled on my denims and shirt, shoved my feet into my tennis shoes, and stepped out into the passage. The lounge doors were both open and I could see Madden down in the galley adjusting the oil valve on the stove.

I walked in, and he glanced up, scowled at me, and offered the usual greeting in a tone that made it sound like, "Drop dead."

"What are you doing up at this hour?" I said.

He held a finger to his lips and gestured at Betty's door directly behind him. "It's this damned arm," he whispered. "Want some coffee?"

"The Old Man up on deck?"

"It's his watch. I'd say he was there."

"Pour two. I'll take him up some."

"Okay. Won't be ready for a while."

I walked back to the head, undressed, showered, dressed again and came out to find that the coffee still wasn't ready, so I went back down to the companionway and up onto the deck.

Callister was sitting there, strapped in the fishing seat, as usual, the pole in its socket, the line stretched out in the *Skylark's* wake. But this time he didn't throw me his usual derisive "Good afternoon!" He didn't do anything at all, because he was dead.

It was what I had been told was to happen, it was the sole reason I was here, but somehow I wasn't ready. In some way, perhaps because of last night or because of his perpetually cheerful attitude, I'd come to believe he'd been wrong that first day on the *Skylark*.

I reached out and touched the soft flesh below his ear. There was warmth there still, but no pulse of life. I picked up the heavy wrist and held it for a long while. Nothing there but the yielding softness and fleeting warmth that told me it had been only a little while. An hour? Or only ten minutes? Why was the body still aboard? Because I had awakened too early and broken into the middle of things? Or was it Madden who had awakened too early?

And then I noticed something significant. I hadn't been looking for it and probably wouldn't have thought of looking for it. But it was obvious enough. The bullet had come out in the center of his forehead, and had gone in an inch lower at the back of his head. I let my eyes follow back along the line the bullet must have traveled. The gun had been held low, and at an upward angle.

I started slowly forward, and, more than fifty feet away, lodged behind the anchor and near the rail, I found it—a slender 30-30 rifle equipped with a custom-made silencer. It was lying there as if it had been dropped—or thrown. I glanced to the left. The rifle

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Death and the Skylark

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was on a line with the open forward hatch.

I looked back at Callister and traced an imaginary trajectory from here to the stern where the old man, his white head bare, sat and grew cold in the warm sun of the morning. I got an ugly picture of someone rising up from the forward hatch lifting the rifle and resting it on the ledge. That would give the trajectory all right. I could see this blank-faced someone, perhaps in panicked haste, throw the gun over the rail. I could see it hit the rail, hold for a moment, and fall back behind the anchor. It must have been there that the plan had been stopped. Had I stopped it? Or had Madden?

"Hey, Bailey, what gives?" It was Madden, looking up at me through the galley skylight. "You want coffee up there?"

"No. I'm coming down."

I lowered myself down the forward hatch, stepped into the galley, and watched Owen pour steaming coffee into an oversized mug. "Doesn't he want some, too?" he asked.

"No, he doesn't."

"Too bad. This morning it tastes like coffee. Made it myself."

"I heard that!" It was Betty's voice and in a moment her door opened and she came out tying her robe around her. I had seen her hair looking better in a high wind, but otherwise she was her usual dew-bright self.

"A little more respect and quiet around here for the graveyard shift," she said. "Suppose there's enough hot water for a shower?"

"Bailey had one, and he's a very big man," Owen said.

"I took it cold."

"Oh, Spartan, huh?" Betty remarked, squeezing past Owen to step into the lounge and go on down to the shower room. I took the mug of coffee Owen had poured for me and walked over to one of the lounges. Owen followed me in and sat down, leaning back on one elbow.

"What woke you up this morning?" I said. "Anything special?"

"I answered that once already. The arm."

"You didn't hear anything?"

"Yeah. I thought I heard the Old Man in the galley. Why?"

I didn't say anything.

"Say, what's eating you, Bailey?"

I heard the door at the end of the passage open and Eilene appeared in a flowing ice-blue négligée. She had been up for quite a spell because when she breezed on over and sat down under the glare of the skylight I could see that her make-up was no haphazard job.

"I could smell the coffee, Owen, and I knew you'd made it," she purred. "Pour me some?"

"Sure."

Owen went into the galley.

Eilene smiled at me and said, "Why don't you go up and drag Glen away from that fishing pole? I feel like making breakfast myself this morning."

"Sure," I said. "I'll go up in a second."

Owen came back with two coffees, the extra one for Betty, I gathered. She had turned off the shower and was singing *Venezuela* at the top of her voice.

Eilene looked at Owen warmly and asked, "How's the arm?"

"Lousy, thanks."

Betty came in with her hair combed and her face gleaming like a boy soprano, looking a lot less prepared for what was coming than I had ever seen. Owen gave her the coffee and she sat down beside me. Eilene turned to me again, a bit impatiently now, and said, "Won't you go up and . . ."

"I was just up there," I interrupted. "He can't come down. Someone shot him, Mrs. Callister. He's dead."

Eilene stared at me as if I had said something that didn't make sense. She suddenly turned her eyes to Owen and dropped the hot mug of coffee onto the soft gray carpet. I felt a quick movement beside me and Betty was on her feet, running blindly from the room. I waited for something more from the lovers, but Owen just stood there giving Eilene back her stare and saying nothing at all. Finally Eilene dropped her eyes to the brown stain at her feet and looked at it as if it were the most important event of the day. Owen put his mug aside and took hold of both her arms in a tight and steadying grip. I got up and walked out of the room.

Betty was up there holding onto the stern rail and looking in dry-eyed wonder and despair at the little man sitting with the pole clutched in his right hand, still waiting for a strike. The wind was blowing gently at his soft white hair and the seat moved slowly with the rolling of the boat.

I didn't go to her, but stepped over to the closed skylight over the lounge and leaned down at its edge where my shadow would fall away from the glass. I could hear a frantic sibilance of voices from below, but neither words nor meaning.

The voices stopped and I moved away, going to Betty and stepping between her and the figure in the chair. After a moment she looked up without really seeing me, and I put an arm around her and drew her away. At the companionway she stopped. "They did it," she choked. "They killed him."

"Betty, listen. Maybe not 'they.' Maybe just one without the other." Owen was coming up the steps, followed with slow reluctance by Eilene. "Get hold of yourself," I said.

We stepped aside and Owen walked over to the body and picked up the left wrist, fumbling clumsily for a pulse. Eilene didn't

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Death and the Skylark

Continued from page 157

come up all the way just far enough to see him there then she turned away her face twisted in an ugly grimace.

Owen dropped the wrist and looked over at me.

"He was shot with a .30-30," I said. "It's forward behind the anchor where I found it."

Owen just went on looking at me with a pale fixity for what seemed a long while. "I know Eilene didn't do this," he said with careful deliberation. "She just told me. And I know Betty wouldn't—couldn't. I also know I didn't. That leaves you, Bailey. I'm putting you under arrest."

"You're . . . !" I wanted to laugh in his face, but somehow the face didn't seem to belong to a kid in his twenties but to a man and one who wouldn't go in for loose threats or idle talk.

"Yes," he said. "The captain of the ship is dead. I'm captain now and responsible for the other passengers. We don't know you, but there's been something phony from the start about your connection with the skipper. I'm going to lock you in your cabin till we hit port. If you try to resist I've got a right to kill you."

And he meant every word of it.

"Look, Owen, you're in deep enough already. Don't make it any tougher. I've got a letter down in my cabin from the dead captain. Maybe you ought to read it before you do anything rash."

He thought about that, looking at me and waiting for me to go on.

"Or maybe I'll just tell you what it says. It's an offer of a job—to go along on this tea party. I'm a licensed private investigator. The letter states that you and the . . . But maybe you'd rather read it after all."

"Go ahead. It states what?"

"That you and Mrs. Callister were having an illicit affair and that one of you on this trip intended to kill him."

I could feel the hysteria building and threatening to break in the girl at my side. I took hold of Betty's hand and gripped it tightly.

"Where is this letter?" It was Eilene, her voice sounding suddenly very old.

"I'll get it for you if you want to see it. As long as our new captain here understands I don't intend to let him have it."

"It doesn't matter," Eilene said wearily. "It would be like him to do a thing like that."

"I want to see that letter," Owen said. "It doesn't make sense to me."

But Eilene didn't seem to have heard him. She went on turning her eyes toward Betty. "There's the one who killed him. Right there."

I felt Betty stiffen with a quick hard movement but she made no other move, said nothing. Eilene began to speak, looking at Betty, but talking to us, the tone rising slowly and sharpening viciously as she went on.

"Two days ago Glen and I came to a complete understanding—about . . . everything." In the brief pause her eyes had gone to Owen for a moment, then back to Betty. "We talked all through one night and Glen finally told me he had cut me out of his will—left me one dirty dollar. But before the night was over he'd promised to—to change it back again. I made the mistake of telling Betty about it. I had to crow a little. And it cost—"

"That's a lie!" Betty's words lashed out with cold fury and contempt. "This is the first I've ever heard of—"

"Cut it!" It was Owen's turn to interrupt now. "We'll be in Honolulu in three days and the cops'll decide the question of guilt." He paused and looked at each of us. This was Owen in his new role and I had to admit grudgingly, that he played it well with a genuine ring of authority. "Meanwhile," he went on, "we have a burial service to perform."

"Wait a minute! You can't send him over the side!"

"Listen, mister," Owen said, looking at me as if I had just stepped up from steerage, "we're at least three hot days out of port. We have a dead man aboard. We're burying him. There's a book on sea law below. Maybe you ought to read it."

"Okay," I said. "It's two funerals—his and yours."

He started to answer when Betty suddenly choked. She was standing there frozen, staring in blank unholy terror at the body of Glen Callister. I looked at the same moment, as Glen Callister's right hand, clasping the rod, shot up stiffly, his body lunged forward, hung there for a terrifying moment of sheer madness and slumped back as the pole left his hand with a jar of sound and disappeared into the sea.

And over all this came the shrill mad screaming of Eilene Callister.

Glen Clarence Callister was buried at sea. ". . . We therefore commit this body to the deep to be turned into corruption, looking for the resurrection of the body when the sea shall give up her dead and the life of the world to come . . ."

Owen Maddon read the words in an awkward tempo but with quiet conviction. Eilene cried silently, but with copious great tears while Betty stood by with taut face and eyes as dry and hot as desert stones.

For two days Eilene and Owen closeted themselves from time to time in the master's cabin and quarreled. Their voices were low and guarded but the passion and the pleading somehow carried even though the words did not.

On the last day before we made

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Death and the Skylark

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port the quarreling stopped completely, as if with the turning of a switch. It was late afternoon and I was at the wheel when I realized I had heard nothing from them for the entire day. The *Skylark* was in her Sunday best and I sat there smoking and listening to her speak. The last time she had moved through the water this way, throwing up foam at her bow, Callister had said she was carrying a bone in her teeth. She was carrying it with a vengeance today, as if she had scented the ships at Oahu.

There was a sound from below and I knew Betty would be coming up in a moment to take over, and I would be seeing her for the first time that day. Whatever she was required to do, Betty Callister did, but the rest of the time she stayed in her cabin, the door locked. When you knocked she answered. When you told her you just wanted to talk, she answered with silence.

Her steps sounded on the companionway and in a moment she walked out onto the deck and came over to the cockpit. She stepped down into it and stood there waiting for me to get up.

"Sit down," I said.

She sat down and I got out my cigarettes and offered her one. She shook her head and I lit one from the one in my mouth, snapped the butt away, and blew smoke over my left shoulder.

"Did you want to say something?" she asked quietly.

"Only that the longer you let a thing like this ride you, the longer it takes to get clear of it."

"Dad's dead, and there's nothing I can do to bring him back. I'm not letting it ride me."

"That's good."

There was another silence and I was wondering how to get past it when Betty said, "I just can't stand being on this boat with her, that's all. If I don't stay in my room I—I don't know what I might do."

"You're sure it's Eileen now, huh?"

"Of course. Why else would she cook up that business about Dad's will?"

"Maybe it's the truth—that is, the part about the will."

"I hope so. But she didn't tell me about it."

"Maybe she said it just to protect Owen."

"Then they're both in it."

"I doubt it."

"I don't want to talk about it."

"Okay," I said, "but I've been curious about something. Didn't you hear the shot?"

"How could I, when there was a silencer on the gun?"

"How did you know that?"

She looked at me steadily for a moment and said just as steadily, "Because I saw the gun when Owen brought it below."

"I just wondered if Owen had gone out of his way to tell you."

"I don't think that's what you were wondering at all. I think you believe Eileen. She hasn't drawn an honest breath for fifteen years, but you believed her."

"Are you saying I think you killed your father?"

She turned and faced me, drawing a sharp breath to say something, and suddenly changed her mind. I could see the pale drawn tension in her face now, the terrible loneliness in her eyes.

She turned away again and said, "It's time for me to take over."

"Okay, you've taken over."

"Please, I ..." And then for what was possibly the first time since sudden death had overtaken Glen Callister, his daughter began to cry. I sat there for a bit before I put a tentative hand to her shoulder. She didn't draw away, and when she spoke the words were muffled. She said, "Please. Go below. I'll be all right."

And it was plain enough that Betty meant just that. I went below.

Eileen and Owen were both in the lounge. Eileen was having a drink, Owen was picking at his guitar, and the tension in the room was even more obvious than the silence. I stepped over to the bar and poured myself a glass of ice water, sat down with it and looked up at Eileen. She turned and walked out of the room and in a moment her stateroom door closed with flat emphasis.

I glanced at Owen and said, "Seems upset. Anything I can do?"

He told me exactly what I could do.

After another round of silence he shot his fingers sharply across the strings with a discordant whang of sound and tossed the guitar across the room. It landed safely on the other couch. "Gimme a cigarette, will you?"

I gave him a cigarette and watched him light it. He dragged deeply, pulled some of the smoke tentatively into his lungs and blew it out quickly in a white plume.

"What happens when we hit port?" he asked. "Who does what to who?"

"I thought you knew all about sea law."

"Okay, so I don't."

"The *Skylark*'s an American-registered ship, isn't she?"

"Sure."

"The F.B.I. handles the investigation and the U. S. Attorney in Honolulu tries the case."

"Why? Why not the local authorities?"

"Did it happen locally?"

"Who do they try? All four of us?"

"Just the guilty party."

"And who might that be?"

"Don't you know?"

He scowled at the cigarette, stood up and walked to the bar to put it out. He stood there with his back to me for what seemed

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Death and the Skylark

Continued from page 160

a long time, and then he wheeled abruptly.

"Jesus, Bailey, I'm in love with her. I suppose that makes me a prime heel, but there it is. I'm in love with her and there's nothing I can do about it." He was staring down at me with a wide-open look of confusion and despair, and I found myself wondering at the changes that can come over a man or a face. The raw toughness and the maturity of two days ago had fallen away, and once again Owen Madden's face belonged to a kid not long past twenty.

"I'm in love with her and she knows it," he was saying. "Why won't she admit it to me?"

"Admit what?" I asked, and I could feel my lips getting dry as I waited for his answer.

He blinked once and looked down at me as if I had just reminded him of something important. He turned and began to mix himself a drink. His hands were trembling. I got up and shut the door that led to the passage and stepped over to mix a drink for myself, being careful to keep it reasonably nonalcoholic.

Two hours later I was on my eighth drink and cold sober. Owen was on his ninth, and just cold. He had taken on the erect, slow-moving, studied air of a man who likes to think of himself as blessed with an unlimited capacity. As Owen had put it while working on drink number seven, "I can get canned to the crow's-nest and you'd never know it."

Well, he was canned to the crow's-nest and carrying three red lights, but I still hadn't managed to get him back onto the subject. I was about to give up out of sheer caution—after all, he would have to take us into port in the morning—when suddenly he leaned toward me and said, as if we'd been there all evening, "Sure, it made me sick inside at first, knowing she could kill a man like that. But I don't care now. Don't care about anything but Eilene, 'cause I'm in love with her and wants... An' she's in love me. Crazy for me..."

He took an untidy swallow and got lost in his thoughts for a while. This time I didn't try to steer him anywhere at all.

"But why won't she admit it, huh, Bailey? Can't live with a woman something like that between you. Can you now?"

"Course not. Won't she admit it?"

He shook his head miserably. "Fact, she keeps yapping at me: admit I did it myself. Can you beat that?"

I said, trying to make it sound as casual as asking for a match, "And did you do it?"

His eyes opened a little wider and almost focused on me. "Hell no, she did! That's what I been trying tell you. And I don' care! If she'd only tell me!" He was shouting now. "If she just look at me and say, 'Yes, I did it. For you.' Then it—"

He broke off abruptly as the door slammed open behind me. I turned to see Eilene standing there in what must have been her flimsiest. She was glaring hotly across the room at Owen, her neck corded with tension, her fists clenched. And when she spoke the sound was like a file against an edge of glass. "You filthy coward. You filthy, lying, murdering coward. I *could* have killed him, Owen. For you. Now I wouldn't walk across the room for you. Not if you were dying. I hope you hang for what you did!"

She turned and went back to her stateroom, leaving Owen staring blankly at the empty darkness framed by the doorway. And she left me seeing the answer to everything, clearly, completely.

It was mid-morning of the fifteenth day of the *Skylark's* singular journey when Diamond Head hove into view.

I found an American flag in the chartroom and took it up on deck. Owen was at the wheel. "I'm going to run it up," I said. "Upside down, so we'll get the quarantine officers out here before we hit port. Any objections, Captain?"

"Nope."

I ran the flag up in distress-signal position and Owen eyed the operation silently. "Is the gun still aboard," I said, "or did you bury it with the captain?"

"It's aboard."

"Where?"

"Wrapped in a sheet and put away."

"Wrapped... Brother, they're going to love you. If there were ever any fingerprints they're gone now." He made some kind of an answer to that but I didn't hear it. I had to to talk to Betty and time was running out.

It was to be my show from here on, but I can't say that my heart was really in it. Glen Callister had hired me, had paid me five hundred honest dollars, and I hadn't succeeded in talking myself out of the idea that I owed him something. Betty was the first step, and I was pretty sure she would also be the toughest.

I found her in the lounge, sitting at the piano running her fingers aimlessly over the keys.

"Where's Eilene?" I asked.

"In her stateroom, I suppose."

I closed the door and sat down, waiting a moment in the hope that she would get it started. But she went on playing a simple, melancholy melody that she seemed to like.

I said, "I'd like to talk to you a minute, Betty."

She let the melody fade off into nothing and turned to look at me without saying anything.

"We'll all be under arrest pretty soon. We'll be asked to make statements. If they decide to

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Death and the Skylark

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raise a murder charge against one of us we'll all be over here for months Do you know that?"

"I suppose we will."

"What kind of a statement are you going to make?"

"How do you mean? The truth, of course."

"What's the truth? And I'm not waxing philosophical."

"Then why ask?"

"Because I'd like to know what you think it is."

"That Dad knew one of them intended to kill him. That he told you so, and hired you to . . ."

"But he didn't."

"What?"

"I said he didn't."

"But the letter . . ."

"There isn't any letter."

She didn't say anything.

"Our friend Owen was threatening to lock me up. I just dreamed up the letter to cool him down."

"You're not a detective?"

"Yes, in California. I'm not licensed to play sleuth on the high seas."

She thought that over and I could see that she didn't like what it added up to. With an air of faint disgust, she said, "Do detectives post bonds? Big cash bonds?"

"Yeah," I said, "they do."

"And you'd forfeit it for operating outside California."

"Possibly."

"You're a wonderful example of fine citizenship, aren't you? You might lose a little money so let's fix it. Let's allow two corrupt contemptible . . ."

"Listen, Betty, this is the story I'm going to tell. Your father hired me sometime ago to find out if there was anything between his wife and Owen Madden. I found there wasn't, and we became friends. That's why I was on the trip—as a friend."

Betty stood up, staring at me with an expression compounded of cold contempt and fear. "And if you tell them that, and Eilene tells her story about the will, they—they might even—"

"Yes, they might. But I can get Eilene to forget that story—at least that she told you about it. But you'll have to forget what you think about Owen and her."

Slowly she crossed the room and sat down, not looking at me. "All this," she whispered, "lying, conniving, just to avoid being held up on an island for a while, just to hold onto a grubby way of making a living." She looked at me. "It's funny how wrong you can be about people."

I didn't say anything.

"Well, I won't do it. I know they were lovers. I've seen them together. I've seen her going down to the *Skylark* when Dad was out of town."

I came across the room and sat down beside her. "Okay, Betty, it's a mess then—for all of us. We'll all pay through the nose, but not one of us will ever pay the price they put on murder, there's too much evidence against the three of you, and not half enough against one."

She shook her head in puzzlement and disbelief, her eyes searching my face. "For the three of us," she whispered, "maybe lying is worth it. But for you it's cheap. It's cheap and—and I don't know. Is there a word for people like you, who can look at murder the way some people look at a traffic violation?"

"Cheap will do until you think of a better word. The quarantine launch will be alongside any minute. Are you going to do it my way?"

"Sorry, no."

"Baby, you just haven't any choice. When I tell them I tailed those two and found there wasn't anything between them, your story's going to look like nothing but an alibi."

"I'll take my chance."

"Then I'd better take the ace out of my sleeve. That rifle was fired from the forward hatch, just two feet from where you sleep. Do you think they'll believe anyone else would go up there to do it?"

"How do you know where it was fired from?"

"The point is, I can establish that it was."

"You'd be lying, of course."

"No, Betty, I wouldn't be."

"You—you think I killed him. You've thought so all along. Is that why you're doing all this?"

"We haven't got time for reasons. I've got Eilene and Owen to tackle yet."

She didn't seem to be listening. She stood up abruptly and said, "You—" and then decided to keep the idea to herself.

"No, Betty, I didn't kill him. Are you doing it my way?"

"How many years do you get for perjury?" she asked harshly.

"This isn't perjury. You'll be under arrest on suspicion of murder. Suspects have a right to say as little or as much as they think wise. If this case goes to the grand jury—and you're lucky enough to be just a witness—then tell the truth. I intend to. But until then you're going to make a statement that doesn't implicate anyone, just as the rest of us will."

"What do I say?"

"Anything you like—as long as it isn't about Eilene and Owen."

"I'll tell you something very funny. I'm not doing it because you've frightened me. I'm doing it because I've still got the silly, schoolgirl idea that you're a nice guy, that you've got some decent reason for all this."

It took just ten minutes with Eilene to get her to see things my way, and with Owen it was less than five. I'm not sure if it was because he was tractable, or because the quarantine launch was coming up on our starboard bow.

The special-representative-in-charge was a blond, pink-faced

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Death and the Skylark

Continued from page 104

man named Holman. He wore a pleasant smile, a wrinkled seersucker suit, and a one-inch haircut. He was painfully polite and when he spoke he chose each word as if he'd just coined it himself.

His office was not in the regular government building but on the second floor of an ordinary office building not far from the harbor. Otherwise it was typical of every civil servant's room from here to Nome. One plain desk, some wooden chairs, a bookcase, mud-brown linoleum, and a secretary who didn't get her job through nature's bounty, but from her place on a list.

We sat in a half-circle in front of Holman's desk and waited for him to get past the polite meaningless inconsequentials and down to the business at hand. The *Skylark* had been impounded and its four passengers were presumably under arrest, although the ugly word had not yet been so much as whispered. A Kona wind was blowing, and when Holman finished telling us what it was and apologizing for it he cleared his throat and said in a new tone, "The quarantine officer advised me that one of you, acting as captain, reported this ... murder aboard. Where was the ship when the death occurred?"

Owen glanced briefly at me before he answered. "Eleven and a half days out of Wilmington. Last Sunday."

"Is the *Skylark* of American registry, Mr. Madden?"

"Yes. I told the quarantine officer all this."

"I know. Well, there's no question about jurisdiction, which means statements are in order. If you like, we can do it right here, together, or privately, if you prefer."

Nobody said anything.

"What will it be?"

Silence.

"Well, if there's no objection then, we'll do it now. You were acting as captain, Mr. Madden?"

Owen nodded.

"Then I'd like to begin with you, please."

I glanced at the secretary. Her freshly sharpened pencil was poised over the pad like a spear-fisher waiting for the kill. It shot down swiftly and began to move when Holman asked his first question.

"What was your relation to the deceased, Mr. Madden?"

The whole thing took less than forty minutes, everyone answering questions readily and at length, but pointing no fingers, dropping no innuendos along the way.

When it was over Holman sat staring out his window while his secretary went over her notes.

Holman asked of nobody in particular, "You say it was a fishing harness. He was strapped in?"

"That's right," I answered.

"And what side of the anchor was the rifle on? Between the anchor and the fishing seat?"

Owen answered that one. "No, the other side of the anchor."

"Anchor lie flat on the deck?"

"Yes."

Holman went back to his window, his eyes as clouded as the sky the day the squall hit us. Finally he turned back, looked at the four of us with a kind of well-mannered skepticism, and said, "If I'd known it was going to be like this, I wouldn't have wasted our time. We'll have to take individual statements, of course. Maybe some of you will feel free then to say what's really on your minds. Frankly, I had supposed you all knew exactly what had happened, that it was an accident, or at most unpremeditated. I hope you all realize I'm forced to have a complaint filed in the District Court against all four of you—suspicion of murder—and to insist on prohibitive bail."

He picked up his phone and two hours later I was making myself at home in one of the local houses of hesitation. I didn't know where the others had been taken, but each of us had gone his own way.

I was a government guest for just eight days, and I was visited by young Mr. Holman three times. Maybe I should say I was visited by young Mr. Holman twice and by old Mr. Holman once, because by the time that third visit rolled around he was an old and tired and harassed man, with blue circles under both eyes and a bad twitch in one of them.

It came on the eighth day, that third visit, and he walked in with his shoulders hunched and his mouth pulled into a thin, dyspeptic line. He threw his brief case onto my cot and fumbled out a cigarette. He said, "You're going to have to change your story. I'm afraid I never did believe it. A man just doesn't get friendly with a private detective he hires to tail his wife. But your story doesn't check out anyway."

"There's no way you could have checked my story and I know it."

"Is that so? Do you get paid to work, Bailey?"

"Not enough, but I get paid."

"We had Callister's bank account in Los Angeles gone over. No checks drawn to you, or to anyone else we could account for. Yet you're supposed to have worked for him for six weeks."

"Don't I detect a slight contradiction in your logic? You say a man doesn't get friendly, et cetera. Then you say he didn't hire me anyway. Which is it?"

Holman didn't answer that right off, but I could see that he was working on it.

"Look," I went on, "people don't pay for my kind of work with checks. They pay cash. Callister paid cash."

I said it simply, like a man

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Death and the Skylark

Continued from page 166

pricking a large balloon with a very small pin. And Holman's face showed me I had touched the business end of the balloon.

After a while he said, "So I can't persuade you to change your story."

"Sorry. I can't do it."

"What if I tell you I intend to charge you with murder and leave the bunch of you before the grand jury?"

"I'd say you were making a big mistake."

He looked down at me, his left eye twitching a bit. He sat down and offered me a cigarette. I took it, lit it, and we sat some more in a kind of one-sided silence.

"You're right, of course," he said hoarsely. "The boys in the U.S. Attorney's office laughed in my face when I suggested we ask for an indictment against one of you. They wanted to know whose hat I was planning to pull the name out of."

"That's tough. Does this thing make a difference in your job—how you stand?"

"Why?"

"Call it curiosity."

"No effect whatever," he said emphatically. "I'm not a local politician, you know."

He went on mulling it over in gloomy silence, finally coming up with, "The girl inherits most of the dough, but everything indicates she didn't, you know it. The wife comes into a good hunk of cash under the community property laws of California, but she'd have done as well if she'd just divorced the guy. You and Madden I can't figure any angle for at all unless one of you had a yen for the wife. Any ideas on that?"

"After eight days in pokey? Naturally."

"To hell with you too."

And, after a little more of the same, he stood up and said, "Well, that's that. You can go any time. The others will be released in an hour or two."

He walked over, opened the barred gate and said, "You'll be looking for a room. I'd recommend the St. James, considering the short notice." He walked away, leaving the cell door open.

I sat there looking at it and not wanting to get up and go out. It was far more pleasant just sitting back watching the gate swing slowly against its hinges, savoring the idea that I could walk out of there any time I wanted.

That evening I checked in at the St. James, a strictly marginal hostelry with a baroque exterior and a Grand Rapids-modern décor. They had a room all right, 506, with bath and a view of the beach. And as I went up in the grille-work elevator I wondered if 506 didn't also have a full complement of peepholes and midget microphones.

It was a pleasant enough room, high-ceilinged, with busy wallpaper and a balcony. I wondered if Holman had recommended the St. James to the others. I walked over and picked up the phone. "This is Bailey in 506. If any reporters come asking about me, I'm not registered. I flew back to California."

"Reporters. Yes, sir."

"Has a Betty Callister registered yet?"

"No, sir," he said without having to give it a second thought. "Elaine Callister is in 304."

"Thanks. If Miss Callister registers, will you ask her to call me?"

"Yes sir."

I hung up and wondered if there was any point in calling the Widow Callister. I decided there wasn't and went out to find something to eat. I found it in a restaurant that claimed to be "The Most Magnificent Chinese Food Place in the World." And it probably was, if you didn't get lost in one of the yawning caves or waterlogged rock gardens.

The desk clerk handed me a note along with my key when I got back. The note said Miss Betty Callister had asked for me at nine-thirty.

"Did she register here?"

"Yes, room 414, but . . ." He turned to glance at the key rack. "She's out right now, with Mrs. Callister."

"Did Owen Madden check in?"

He shook his head. He hadn't had to check his register for that one either.

I went upstairs and got under the shower, wondering if Owen had enough money on him to find a bed somewhere. I doubted it. The *Skylark* would be out of police hands by now, but I also doubted if Owen would sleep there.

I was still wondering about it when I went to bed.

I woke up feeling thirsty and hung-over and not in a mood for breakfast or for any of the other activities I had planned for the day. I got dressed and went out onto the balcony to wait for the phone to ring.

It came through for me at ten o'clock—Owen Madden calling from the lobby. I told him to come up.

His clothes were wrinkled and he was wearing a blue stubble of beard on his face and a look of hostile contempt around his mouth, as if there was something a little indecent about people who slept in beds.

"Mind if I take a shower and borrow your shave kit?"

"Go ahead. Where'd you sleep last night?"

"Under a Koa tree, and how did you sleep?"

He disappeared into the bathroom without waiting for an answer, and half an hour later he was out again looking cleaner but no happier.

"I don't suppose you'd like to

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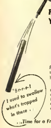

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Death and the Skylark

Continued from page 169

tell me what this is all about, would you?" he asked. "You were sort of putting your neck out a long way for people you don't give a damn about. Why? Did you kill the Old Man?"

"No."

"Frankly, I didn't think you did."

"I thought you had that all figured out."

"I'm afraid I have. Well, so long, Bailey. It's been weird knowing you." He walked toward the door.

"Going anywhere in particular?"

"Over to the Big Island. I can get a job on a boat over—"

He broke off as a knock sounded daintily at the door. I called out a come in, the door opened, and Eilene started in with a kind of half-smile on her face. She stopped abruptly when she saw Owen and the smile broke like a piece of china.

"I—I'll come back some—"

"I was just leaving," Owen said, and he shook my hand and walked out the door, striding past Eilene as if she hadn't been there and closing the door firmly behind him.

"He's going over to Hawaii Island to get a job," I offered.

"How nice for him. I came up to thank you for—for everything. I'd have come sooner but the reporters have been at me since dawn."

"Do they know I'm here?"

"No, they think you flew back."

There was a moment of awkward silence.

"Is there anything I can do?" she asked.

"Nothing, thanks. What are your plans?"

"I'm going home. I've got space on today's plane."

"Where's the *Skylark*?"

"Why?"

"I've got some stuff on it."

"Oh. It's at the Oahu Yacht Anchorage. Betty and I decided to put her up for sale."

"Why not?"

"Yes, why not. Well, goodby. I'll never know why, but you've been a good friend."

"Have I?"

"I think so. And I'll never forget it. Never."

I guided her gently toward the door and walked with her down the corridor to the elevator. While we waited for it to wheeze up to the fifth floor I said, "Who do you think killed him, Eilene?"

"Does it matter?"

"Don't you think it does?"

"It was Owen, of course," she said quietly. "I wouldn't have cared if he'd had the honesty and manhood to face me with it." She looked at me wide-eyed. "I'd have married him knowing he'd killed to . . . Well, what's the difference? It's as dead as poor Glen now. Deader."

The elevator got there, and Eilene shook my hand vaguely and stepped in. Her eyes stayed on mine until the cage dropped below the floor level. I walked down the stairs to Betty's room on the fourth floor. There were no reporters, but there was also no response to my knock. I went back up and tried her by phone. No answer, and the desk clerk had no idea where she might be.

So I went on down to the Oahu Yacht Anchorage and found the *Skylark*, which was a little like coming home.

It seemed infinitely quiet down in the lounge and musty. And there also seemed something missing. As I stepped into the galley, it came to me. Owen's guitar. It wasn't lying there on the couch as it always had. I had left Callister's letter under the paper in the galley cupboard; now I took it out and dropped it into a pocket.

I opened Betty's door. Even the lace spread was gone. I went back to the master's cabin.

The gun was there, the government's identification tag still dangling from the trigger guard, the silencer gone. Possession of a silencer is against the law. I started opening drawers. Callister's clothes were still there and his

Continued on page 172

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Death and the Skylark

Continued from page 170

pipes. And in the bottom drawer I found what I was looking for: a ball of twine, the same one I had noticed vaguely the first day Owen had shown me through the boat.

I picked it up and held it to my nose. It didn't have quite the odor I'd expected, but what it had spelled the same thing. For the first time I was absolutely certain I was right, and my hands trembled as I dropped the string into a pocket, picked up the gun, tore off the tag and took out a cartridge. I pried out the lead, dumped the powder down the drain in the two-by-two head, and put the gutted cartridge into the firing chamber.

Up on deck, I walked forward to where the anchor lay and knelt beside it, putting the barrel of the rifle across the anchor and lining it up carefully with the fishing seat. I stretched on the deck and sighted along it, moving the butt till it rested snugly against the side. That did it; a bullet out of that gun would pass a few inches above the high back of the seat.

My hands were beginning to sweat now. I brought out the ball of string and unwound about fifty or sixty feet, broke it off and put a tight loop twice around the anchor and once around the rifle stock. Keeping the string taut, I put a loop carefully around the trigger, then around the back of the trigger guard, bringing it toward me without slack and making my way half-crouched toward the stern.

I straightened slowly when I felt the seat touch the back of my legs. I turned the seat and sat down. The business end of the rifle leered at me with deadly intent.

There was an extra three feet of string. I picked it up and laid it across my lap. Slowly, I fumbled a match out of a pocket, lit it, and held it against the loose end of the string. My left arm, keeping just the slightest tension on the long stretch of string, was beginning to get numb. If the string dropped down from the trigger guard, I'd have to go through all this again. I wondered if Callister had had any trouble. No, he'd doubtless rehearsed it to a fine art.

The first match went out, but with the second the string began to burn and I dropped the loose end off my knees onto the deck. It burned quickly, fuse-like, with a flameless orange glow. I looked at the gun some fifty feet away. I should have had my back turned and my free right hand gripping the pole. But the pole was gone, and I wanted to watch. There were only a few inches of string left to burn before it reached my left hand. Slowly, slowly, I pulled. And the gun fired. The trigger had been filed to take only the slightest pressure. I dropped the string and watched it as it burned, the ash disappearing to a white dust in the quiet movement of the wind across the decks. The gun had held against the anchor, the barrel still pointed at my head.

So here was the final answer to all the questions but one. Had Callister hoped to hang Eilene and her lover? For me that question had long since been answered, and the answer had made it impossible for me to let the world in on the little secret Glen Callister had thought he was taking with him. The answer was No, because there was no other way to explain his insistence that only one had intended to kill him. The state would have had to prove which one, and he had known they would never be able to do it. But the love affair that had killed him would itself be a long time dead. He had known that too.

I took his letter from my pocket and tore it to bits, dropping the pieces over the side. The string had burned nearly to the anchor now, and I walked forward and knelt beside it. The string burned around the rifle stock and the rifle turned and slipped to the deck. The string fell loosely beside it and went on burning, the faint white ash wafting away, rising and vanishing.

And in a moment there was nothing there but a rifle, lying as though it had been thrown from . . . The thought was suddenly broken as a soft voice said, "Now we both know."

I swung around to see Betty Callister looking at me from the boarding ladder. Only her head and shoulders showed above the deck and she was gazing at me with a gravely speculative air.

"How long have you been there?" I asked.

"Long enough to know that Dad . . . killed himself."

She came up the rest of the way and stepped over beside me. She looked down at the gun and her eyes seemed to darken and a muscle pulled along her jaw.

"How long have you known?" she whispered.

"Almost from the first day."

"Then it's no surprise to you that Owen and Eilene have gone their separate ways."

"No, it isn't."

"Do you like playing God?"

"No," I said. "But I'd have liked something else even less . . . knowing your father had died in vain."

She looked up at me, holding my eyes steadily with hers for a long while. I felt that it was somehow important to hold, not to look away. And quite suddenly, her eyes misted and filled and she turned away and looked out toward the open sea.

After a moment I said, "I found quite a spot last night, in case you're hungry. The Most Magnificent Chinese Food Place in the World."

She turned back to me and slowly smiled. "Sounds wonderful," she said. "Let's go . . ." #

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Man in a Trap

Continued from page 169

reef. The brilliant world growing underwater from the coral was so fine to look at that you didn't care if you jabbed a fish or not. And there was always the added excitement of moray eels, black and yellow widemouthed vicious snakes, and of stray bad-tempered sharks. I swam inside the reef and it bore no relation to ordinary swimming. It was more like drinking champagne. I have never seen pure aquamarine water except around these little islands, and the waters of St. Ignace glow with a special blue light. This island rises slightly in a hump between the cove and the port, and the vegetation is a dream of movie tropics complete with orchids, flowering vines, palms and ceibas, all ornamented by loud pretty birds. There is only one settlement and this town, village or collection of shacks is called Bienville; the whole island can't be more than ten miles square.

Bienville must have been pretty in its day, roughly two centuries ago, and around the harbor there are still crumbling pale pretentious plaster houses. I don't know how the ancient gentry of St. Ignace had made their money unless it was piracy. The occupation of the islanders nowadays is fishing and building fishing boats. There seems to be no brisk trade in either; everyone is broke on St. Ignace, but as there isn't anything to buy it doesn't worry them. The harbor smells more of wood from the unfinished hulls than of fish, and with the moldering splendor of the houses and their shining green frame of trees it is as attractive a port as I ever saw.

Then there were the people.

"Do you think Philippe will be there?" asked Pete, as we lay on the deck of our rented sloop, jogging slightly in a calm. We had been jogging slightly for three days and we were sick of it. It was a primitive boat; you could lie in the hold where generations of fish had lain before you, or lie on deck and wait for sunstroke.

"Oh no," I said, elegantly wiping off sweat with my arm. "It's eight years ago. He'll be back in France, telling his friends and relatives about his experiences."

"How about the Caribbean?" asked Pete, a bit crossly. "Do they have a wind once a year or what?"

"By next month a little breeze ought to spring up."

"Malina might be there."

"So she might." Then the conversation died and we jogged. I thought about Philippe de Ronceval, who was a very odd character indeed. I had rowed ashore to the quay of the Bienville harbor eight years ago, wearing my most unreliable expression, and a white man had come down the water steps and secured my dinghy for me. Aha, I thought happily, a kraut! He was blond and slender and wore dirty duck pants, but on closer inspection he did not look properly German, mostly because of his hair, which was reddish gold, waving, too long and too poetic. I believed a German would get his hair cut if he had to saw it off with a shark's fin. When the man spoke I realized he was French although he spoke to me in English.

In the next five days Philippe told me part of his story and I saw the rest. He told it as a joke.

It seems he came of old Breton stock, and Bretons are sailors, and just before the war he set forth to sail around the world in something not much larger than a rowboat. He got as far as St. Ignace in 1940, and his plan was to make his way somehow to Martinique and thence to France and to the army. He was twenty-seven and had his normal share of patriotism, and also a desire not to be left out of the life of the world. But his boat was no longer seaworthy, and while waiting for a freighter to drop in at St. Ignace he met Malina. Unluckily Malina fell in love with him. I met Malina, and I never saw a girl I would less want to have in love with me.

Malina was a native St. Ignacian, which meant that any number of races had produced her. She was taller than most island women, slim, with a dancer's proud and certain way of moving. Her color was pale, creamy brown, and she was certainly beautiful if you weren't too scared to look at her. She had a mop of coal black curling hair and wide-set greenish eyes and a fascinating mouth and a strong aquiline nose. I have no idea of how old Malina was—maybe twenty—but age had nothing to do with Malina; no one could be older. Malina had apparently tossed aside the local youth in contempt, as unworthy of her, but Philippe was exactly what she wanted. He came from the outside world and furthermore, he had one of those titles which are no longer any use to their owners; he was poor, reckless and knew only about boats, but still he was Count de Ronceval. Who knows what that meant to Malina, what grandeur it called up in her mind? Besides that, she may have loved Philippe, who was a lovable fellow. In any case, she decided to marry him, and one day return with him to France. With equal vigor, Philippe decided not to marry her. He was going to leave St. Ignace as unmarried as when he arrived, and fight for his country.

Malina simply said to him that he would never leave alone. And Philippe was too polite and well brought up to laugh in her face.

A freighter did arrive and it was headed in the right direction, but Philippe was not aboard when it sailed from St. Ignace. He was home in bed, shaking with chills, burning with fever, delirious, and Malina was nursing him.

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¼ ounce, $5.00	¼ ounce, $4.75	¼ ounce, $5.00	¼ ounce, $5.00
½ ounce, $7.00	1 ounce, $17.50	1 ounce, $18.50	1 ounce, $18.50
1 ounce, $17.50	Cologne	Cologne	Cologne
Cologne	2 ounce, $2.00	2 ounce, $2.25	2 ounce, $2.25
2 ounce, $2.00	3½ ounce, $3.25	3½ ounce, $3.50	4 ounce, $4.00
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Man in a Trap

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with tender care. Four more passing schooners anchored in the harbor, and each time Philippe was far too sick to move—too sick even to know that there were boats he might move on. He said that the islanders attributed his sickness to Malina, who was, in their opinion, one of the best witches in the business, but Philippe dismissed the idea as nonsense. He accepted his strange fevers as bad luck; in the tropics you can get a fever at any time for no reason, and the fever will abate as quickly as it came. He arranged with three husky boatbuilders to carry him aboard the next freighter bound for Martinique, no matter how sick he was. I said nothing when he told me his scheme, but I wondered whether any of the locals would take a chance on Malina and her unpleasant talents. But Philippe was untroubled by Malina's alleged black magic; he was only furious at the delay. By now, he'd have to get to London and join the Free French; there was no army left in France.

There were five other white people on the island: the priest, a Spaniard called Don Andres, and the schoolteacher Monsieur Laborde and his wife, and the local Big Businessman, Monsieur Larsen, a Swede who owned the small shipyard, and his shrewish wife. They were all yellowed by fever, and bitter and worn and sick of each other's stale conversation and complaints; they were delighted to have a newcomer amongst them. Monsieur Larsen gave Philippe a job and Malina drove him to build and furnish a little slat house. She made the house charming—pretty and bright and full of flowers. Philippe was not uncomfortable; he simply didn't want to be where he was. But he could still laugh about the island and himself and Malina and his tendency to miss the boat.

I liked Philippe, as I would like any man crazy enough to sail around the Cape of Good Hope in a cockleshell and tough enough to survive the journey. So although it was definitely off my beat, I offered to take him to an English island fairly near Martinique, where the coastwise traffic was heavier and he could pick up other transport. I couldn't tell him what I was doing and he was a tolerant man; if I chose to be a coward that was my own business. But he wouldn't accept my offer; he didn't want to be responsible for my being arrested, as I obviously deserved. He didn't really think the Allied cause would be lost just because a bum named Dick Farr was skulking around the Caribbean, afraid of shots fired in anger. He looked pretty sad when I sailed out of the harbor. I remember he stood on the quay until I was out of sight.

"I hope he's home," I said suddenly.

"Who?" Pete asked.

"Philippe de Ronceval."

"You don't really think Malina's still hexed him, do you?"

"Of course not. Voodoo is for tourists."

"Maybe he was a genuine draft dodger."

"Not Philippe."

"Honey," Pete said sweetly, "I'm dying. In one-half hour I'm going to start screaming. Then I am going mad and jump overboard. How *long* do we bounce here? I've never seen such an ocean. What's the matter with it? Every other place I've sailed, they had some wind."

They had some wind in the Caribbean, too, and eventually we were gliding, more or less, into the harbor of St. Ignace, and Pete was doing nothing useful about the boat because she was standing on deck, staring.

"It's the most beautiful place I ever saw," she said. "Why couldn't you get a job here? Imagine living in an apartment in Chicago when there's an island like this! Dick, honestly, couldn't you build boats here? Look, there's a white man down there. If he can earn his keep, you can."

"Shut up, beloved," I said, "and help me with this tub."

It happened exactly as it had eight years ago except that I was wearing an honest expression. A white man came down the water steps and grabbed the dinghy's painter and the white man was Philippe de Ronceval. Not that Pete recognized him from my description, and I recognized him only because his hair was still reddish gold. I was too shocked to say hello, but he greeted me in a stunned way, and then, because he couldn't believe it either, said, "You're Dick Farr, aren't you?"

"Philippe!" I said, leaping out of the dinghy and leaving Pete to scramble ashore by herself. "By God, it's good to see you, boy!" It was anything but good to see him. I introduced Pete and he stared at her like a sleepwalker until Pete blushed and fidgeted. It's probably more than ten years since he's seen a pretty, healthy white girl, I thought. It was pathetic how he looked at her, as if she stood for everything loved, not forgotten but lost: home, France, happy friendly familiar people, the normal life of a normal civilized man.

"I see nothing has changed here," I said, trying to break the silence.

"No," Philippe said. "Nothing has changed." His voice sounded terrible and Pete got it too.

She began to babble. "Dick's told me so much about your spearfishing. I'm crazy to try it; couldn't we all take a picnic and go across the island?"

What a smart girl, I thought; she's given us something to talk about. Ways and means. Can you buy any food on the island now, how about spears, are the

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Man in a Trap

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sharks troublesome these days. It seemed to me that Pete and I were talking like nervous hostesses at a grim tea party, but it worked and presently we were loaded with bread, wine, fresh figs, mangoes, a can of beans and spears, and setting out on the narrow jungle track for the cove where we would catch our luncheon fish.

The cove was as I remembered it and for a moment we forgot the pale wreck at our side. We stood on the promontory to the South, and I put my arm around Pete because I felt suddenly that here it was—we were having our honeymoon at last.

"Oh, Dick," Pete said, "*Look* at it!"

I turned to Philippe, meaning to say something about this place, these colors, and saw that he was staring at us with an unbearable hunger in his eyes. Pete took my hand and pulled me down the incline to the white coral sand.

"Feel it, feel it!" she exclaimed, letting the sand sift through her fingers. "Oh, darling, I'm so glad I married you. Imagine if I'd married some lug who wouldn't have brought me here for our honeymoon."

"You are just married?" Philippe asked.

"We've been married three years," I said, "but this is our first vacation."

Then Philippe said, in a voice of pain or grief, "You are happy."

We didn't know what to do; you can't very well go about declaring your happiness. To create a diversion Pete said she was going to undress behind an orchid, and wished to be instructed in the use of a spear.

Philippe was out of training, to put it mildly. His body was worm-white, soft and flabby, the skin hung on his bones and his arms and legs were withered.

"You've been sick, haven't you?" I said. "Too much tropics? I kind of thought you'd be back in Brittany getting healthy in all that cold grey rain." I had a somewhat gloomy idea of Brittany myself, having fought there.

"I've been busy. Couldn't get away. But I expect to go home later." He didn't look at me and I felt uncomfortable for him; he did not lie well. I imagined, sketchily, that he was ashamed to go home after the war and try to explain why he wasn't there when a loyal Frenchman should have been. Since he said nothing about Malma, I didn't mention her; I thought maybe he wanted to forget what must have been a rough time in his life.

Pete loved the reef and speared no fish. She floated around with her face underwater, using Philippe's homemade mask and admired the coral city and the vari-colored coral forests and the legions of rainbow fish. Philippe wasn't up to such active pursuits any more; he had no wind and no muscle. He swam back to the beach and stretched. I worked hard spearing some lunch for us, and presently Pete and I were standing on humps of coral, whispering.

"He looks awful," Pete said.

"Worse."

"He looks like a drunk to me."

I hadn't thought of that. "It's not likely," I said.

"What about Malma?"

"I guess she's gone away. He didn't say anything about her."

"Dick, I don't want to be with him every day we're here. He gives me the creeps."

"He'll cheer up," I said, not believing it. "Come on, we'd better fix lunch."

During lunch Philippe asked tactfully if I'd run into any trouble when I got home after the war. I explained to him about my coward assignment and the jobs I'd had later. As soon as I said the word France his face changed, so I talked about his country. I didn't want to tell him any of the bad things and, after all, my news was six years old; so I spoke of a Resistance outfit I'd been with and of Paris on leave. But in the middle of a sentence he changed the conversation, as if he couldn't stand hearing any more. I decided it would be better to talk about the island; it occurred to me that everything Pete and I said, and everything we were, was a torment to him. I'd seen him looking at Pete when she laughed, and it made me feel as though we were big, fat, rich profiteers showing off our wealth to a starving man.

"Is everyone still here?" I asked. "The two original settlers?"

"Larsen's here," Philippe said, obviously indifferent. "But he drinks. His wife runs the shipyard. The Labordes went home." There was a tiny pause, and something like hate came into his eyes. "We've got a new schoolteacher, a man. He won't last long, he's had malaria four times. The priest died about two years ago. They haven't sent another."

At first he refused our wine, and then he drank it, greedily, and it worked on him very fast. So Pete was right. Wine doesn't have such effects on a Frenchman. I was appalled to see Philippe spilling food and to hear his slurred words. We acted as if everything were fine and here was a man who looked crazy and sick and got drunk on three glasses of coarse red wine.

"Books?" Philippe said suddenly. "You brought books?"

"We have some," Pete said. "We'll leave them with you."

"I have none," he said. "They were burned. Everything, every one. Only the Bible. I have a little Bible." He made a measuring gesture with his hands. "No one would touch that. Oh no, they are afraid of that. It is magic, too."

Pete began to look unhappy.

"I will get your books tonight and bury them, so no one can see them. Then I will dig up one

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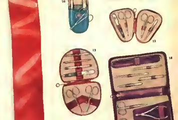

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Man in a Trap

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at a time and take it into the forest to read."

"Why, Philippe?" I asked.

"I must not go away," Philippe said. "You can also go away for a while if you read a book."

Pete now started her routine babbling. I had never known my wife had such a talent for overcoming hopeless silences.

"Philippe, do you suppose we could get a hot bath?" she asked. "I don't mean in a marble tub or anything like that, but just some hot water and soap. We've been on Dick's unclean yacht for days and I really need a good wash."

I expected Philippe to say, *Of course, come home with me.* In the old days he'd had a rudimentary bathroom and a servant who heated water.

"I will ask Mrs. Larsen," Philippe mumbled.

"Good," said Pete. I knew that all she wanted was to get away from Philippe.

We had our bath at the Larsens'. Mrs. Larsen hadn't spoken to Philippe so I decided there was a nice local feud going on, but she whined to me about her dreary overworked life while Pete was washing, and discussed ladies' fashions with Pete while I was getting cleaned up. I was showing Pete the ruined beauties of Bienville when Philippe reappeared. There was an unappetizing café on the harbor front and we went in for a drink. The waiter did not move when I ordered. He looked at Philippe, and I was ready to hit him just for the way he looked. Then he said, with incredible rudeness, "Who is going to pay?"

I expected Philippe to give the man hell, but Philippe said nothing. He flushed and stared at his hands.

"I am," I said. "And get the drinks as you were told, and fast, and don't speak to us again."

"My credit is not very good," Philippe said shakily.

His credit might be zero, but that did not explain the insolent, mocking contempt of the waiter, and nothing explained why Philippe had let the waiter get away with it. Perhaps the drink gave Philippe courage or made him careless, because when Pete said she simply would not eat on our palatial pleasure craft again, that she wanted to eat on dry land and food she had not cooked, Philippe said, "I will take you home. You will dine at my house."

The house was the same except that it needed paint and the little garden was weeds and jungle instead of neatly planted flower beds. Philippe opened the screen door—a torn, squeaking screen door—and let us into the living room. It was a shambles with sagging curtains and broken furniture. It smelled of dirt. I could see Pete wrinkling her nose and I thought, *This is it, he's gone all the way down, animals wouldn't live in a place like this.*

Then Philippe began to talk in a voice I'd never heard, in a voice no man should ever use. It was a pleading, pacifying whine, and he talked where he stood as if he dared not move further into his own house unless someone unseen gave him permission.

"*Chérie*, come out and meet my old friends," he said in this disgusting voice. "They are Americans. They came on their boat for a few days. Perhaps you remember Dick Farr? I have brought them home to meet you. I asked them to have dinner with us."

Pete looked at me in bewilderment and I shrugged.

"*Chérie*," Philippe said again. "Please come out and speak to us."

My instinct was to say, *I've had enough of this, we're going*, but I didn't have time. A hand parted the wooden bead curtains on the bedroom door, and Malina stood there in the doorway.

She was more beautiful, more exotic, more startling than I had remembered her. In the old days she had dressed in faded, shapeless cotton like the other islanders and had used no cosmetics; now her mouth was painted with dark red lipstick and she wore a clinging dress of printed silk, crimson and purple with jagged traces of emerald green. Her face had altered, or had become naked; it spoke for her.

She looked Pete over, slowly and in silence; she made me think of a snake rising and swaying before it strikes. She studied me, without any sign of recognition, and dismissed me as if she had said, *I can handle him.* Then she turned to Philippe, and her mouth curved very, very slightly, in a smile. The smile was evil; she observed with loathing a beaten animal, not a man. It seemed to me that Philippe shrank, that his shoulders bowed, and I knew suddenly that this disgrace came to him every day and that he was paralyzed by despair.

Like a man reciting what he had been tortured to learn, in a toneless, mindless voice Philippe said, "My wife, Countess de Ronceval."

For one instant Malina's eyes blazed with a cold triumph. And the faint evil smile was now directed toward us.

"I invited my friends to dinner," Philippe said humbly.

"There is no food for them," Malina said. It was indecent, the insult included us, but it was meant for Philippe. He must beg, I thought; he must crawl to her always; she is teaching him now not to forget his place again, not to walk out and ask for what he wants.

Pete's cheeks burned and she set her jaw in a way I did not know. I realized that I had never seen Pete in a rage before. She turned and walked out the door and I followed her.

I could hear Philippe saying

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Man in a Trap

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'*Chérie* if there's nothing to eat here perhaps it would be best if I took them to the café? Beg, I thought crawl and maybe she will give you permission.

"You may go" Molina said "You will return at ten o clock '

I saw Pete's hands clenching with anger her eyes had tears of fury in them Then Philippe was with us and we walked down the path to the harbor There was nothing to say Pete couldn't or wouldn't ease this silence

When we were on the quay Philippe said "Can we get the books now? Quickly?"

Pete waited for us, sitting on the sea wall and smoking and Philippe rowed the dinghy very fast very silently, so that I felt we were sneaking to commit a crime He did not speak at all, since voices carry over water, but seized the books and stuffed them inside his shirt He rowed back the same way and was suddenly gone into the dark Pete and I went to the café and sat at a table beneath the hanging kerosene lamp I studied the curled, sticky matted rolls of flypaper, thinking nothing

Pete said "We have got to do something'

I was not sure we would see Philippe again but I nodded

The waiter took our order and Pete obstinately ordered for Philippe too She wasn't accepting this disgusting vision she rebelled fiercely against what she had seen, against the total ugly subjection of a human spirit

"We will take him away with us tonight" Pete announced 'You must do it Dick '

"I'm not going to order anything to drink ' I said "If Philippe comes back I want him stone sober

The greasy soup the greasy fried eggs the greasy fried bananas were laid out on the table when Philippe returned He must have circled behind the port so that he was walking from the direction of his house He looked crafty sly horrible—like a petty thief or a sniveling dope addict who has just outwitted the police

'I have them safe,' Philippe whispered as he sat down Pete shivered was it from disgust I wondered or is he fearing her, too?

The waiter had gone back into the dank kitchen I decided now was the time to start

'Philippe you can't let this go on A few more years will finish you. You have to get away Immediately There's a moon and we can clear the harbor tonight We can anchor offshore and sail at dawn We'll take you to Barbados and we have enough money to lend you passage for France. It's the only sane thing to do"

'The priest would not marry us," Philippe said as if he hadn't heard me "He made excuses he always found some reason to prevent it. She waited until she saw that the priest meant it Then the priest took sick he was well in the morning and two days later he was dead If there is no priest then the schoolteacher can perform the marriage ceremony Molina spoke to him I don't know what she said but I can guess The poor priest, she said he died so suddenly it would be a shame if we lost our teacher too. He married us that afternoon"

"All right" Pete said "She poisoned the priest I wouldn't put it past her

"She was not here," Philippe said "She was gone for a week before he died and she did not come back until after the burial. She was at the other end of the island in the forest with the charcoal burners. She has a cousin there"

Then she paid someone else to poison him the servant maybe."

'No' Philippe said, not arguing, just stating a fact

I tried to eat the filthy food My mind did not seem to be working any too well

"Once I got away" Philippe said 'It was a schooner from Saba But after twelve hours they brought me back. It seems I went insane I had clawed my skin as if I wanted to tear it from my bones I started to strangle a sailor who came near me I tried to slash the sails with a knife They could only shoot me or throw me overboard or bring me home And they were afraid, they did not know what she would do to them and their boat if they killed me I remember nothing except that I went aboard and later I woke up in my own bed This waiter knew because the man on the schooner told him They brought me back at night and in the morning I was all right, only weak"

"Philippe I said "your nerves are gone that's all It's no wonder If they'd had a doctor aboard, he'd have fixed you up Kept you under sedatives for a while"

No" Philippe said "I am not afraid to die you must understand After a long time I tried that too I have no gun any more but a knife Only when I came to use it I could not Could not. There was no strength in my hands, it was as if the wrists were broken. She let me stay like that for five days I could not feed myself nor dress myself My hands were gone She laughed at me I hate her laugh more than anything in the world. Then she got tired of doing the work, or perhaps she thought I'd learned my lesson She made me promise not to try again I would break any promise to her, but it is no use"

"I don't believe it!" Pete cried, banging on the table, as though noise or anger would break the spell

"And all the other times' Phil-

Continued on page 184

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Man in a Trap

Continued from page 182

ippe went on "I believe now that she knows what I think and even if I only plan when there is no boat here but only plan how it will be the fever comes

"You are making it up you're imagining it She's driving you crazy" Pete said "Fever fever How many times do people get malaria on this island?"

"It is not malaria" Philippe said "Malaria is nothing And this is like being torn apart as if your body were broken on the rack In the beginning I stood it sometimes for days but now I cannot I have sobbed with pain and begged her to stop it She waits for me to say what I must say Forgive me You are my wife I love you and I will never leave you" His voice dropped They were the last shame, the words she forced him to say in his weakness

But Pete would not give up She argued with him as I could not she pleaded with him and finally she called him a coward I suppose he could not take that coming from a girl of his own kind, I suppose that was what did it He became recognizable as by a miracle the old Philippe he agreed with a kind of gaiety the reckless man again the man who sailed in a cockleshell around the Cape of Good Hope He was suddenly eager to go and he didn't care who saw him

I looked at my watch and found it was ten minutes before ten the sky was clean and bright, and there was a good offshore wind We climbed into the dinghy and rowed hard to the boat I saw Philippe turn once and look at the island all dark except for the flickering light in the café He made a funny crisp gesture with his hand bidding it good-by and to hell with it I remember that we were actually laughing when we got on board

I went to the mast to break out the mainsail and Pete took the tiller I'd told Philippe to weigh anchor I heard him fall and I knew it all then somewhere in my mind. I ran to him and Pete ran. He lay on deck unconscious Pete flashed her torch on him and we saw his face It had been sickly pale before and now it was a blotched lumpish red He breathed in groans, and each breath was driven by some terrible effort of the lungs Pete got whiskey and we forced the bottle between his lips I hauled up a bucket of cold sea water and sloshed it over his body and another and another, until he was drenched He did not move and his face was the same congested red and his breath ground out of him slowly I tried rubbing his wrists and Pete found some ammonia and nothing worked

"There must be medicines on shore" I said "The teacher or Larsen will have something We have to take him back"

He wasn't hard to carry, he was that light We put him on the floorboards of the dinghy and I carried him up the water steps to the café There was light in the café and I wanted light badly

The waiter stood there as if he were ready for us

"Lay him on the floor," he said

I shouted at him to get help medicines hurry run for it And the waiter did not move

"Don't get excited" the waiter said with that sneering insolence "Just go away that is all you have to do I will take him home I have done it before. He is a fool He knows what will happen if he disobeys her In the morning he will be all right" He looked at Philippe lying there helpless, ugly and he laughed It wasn't anything serious he might have laughed that way at a stumbling drunk "The fool" he said casually contemptuous

I think that broke Pete I think her nerve gave at that moment

"Get me out of here Dick" she said as she rushed from the café "Get me away from here, Dick please please now"

She was running for the dinghy and I ran after her she certainly wasn't fit to row alone back to the boat She scrambled on board, talking to me in a whisper, breathlessly "The anchor hurry hurry, I'll hoist the sail We must go now it doesn't matter where get away from here! There's a wind Hurry Dick you're slow you're slow"

But she couldn't manage anything and I told her to find blankets and whiskey and presently I got the boat to rights and we passed the breakwater, heading for the open sea straight out stupidly just to put distance between us and the island Pete crouched beside me at the tiller shivering inside the blankets I held one arm around her and was glad I had her to look after and the sloop to steer Just around the corner in my mind was a good big panic waiting for me what if Pete had a fever that wouldn't cure. Crazy, I told myself stop thinking crazy stop it now

"It's a death sentence" she said "He is condemned to death"

"It's worse He's condemned to live like that The only luck Philippe can have is to die"

"I'm afraid" she said and there she was shivering and crying at my side Pete that merry, sane, lovely, healthy girl

"Pete listen to me We're gone see we're out of it Remember who we are? We're us, we're all right We're going home we're safe as houses Take it easy now, darling We haven't got anything to do with madness"

I said it as if I meant it I had to say it fast and make it stick Fear is a terrible thing and also it's catching

I never turned my head to look back at St Ignace which I used to think was paradise #

Continued from page 189

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Boots at The Holly-Tree Inn

Continued from page 85

ing to laugh at our being engaged—pretending to make game of it Cobbs!"

"Such, sir," says Cobbs, "is the depravity of human natur."

The boy, looking exactly like his father, stood for a few minutes with his glowing face towards the sunset, and departed with "Good night, Cobbs! I'm going in."

Well, sir! Boots left the Elmses when his time was up, and Master Harry he went down to the old lady's at York, which old lady would have given that child the teeth out of her head (if she had had any) she was so wrapped up in him. What does that Infant do—for Infant you may call him and be within the mark—but cut away from that old lady's with his Norah on a expedition to go to Gretna Green and be married!

Sir, Boots was at this identical Holly-Tree Inn (having left it several times since to better himself, but always come back through one thing or another), when, one Christmas Eve, the coach drives up and out of the coach (into the snow) gets them two children. The Guard says to our Governor, "I don't quite make out these little passengers, but the young gentleman's words was that they was to be brought here." The young gentleman gets out, hands his lady out, gives the Guard something for himself, says to our Governor, "We're to stop here tonight, please. Sitting room and two bedrooms will be required. Chops and plum pudding for two!" and tucks her under his arm and walks into the house much bolder than brass.

Boots leaves me to judge his amazement when he goes upstairs into the best room and finds these two tiny creatures all alone by themselves. Master Harry on a e-normous sofa—immense at any time but looking like the Great Bed of Ware, compared with him—a drying the eyes of Miss Norah with his pocket handkecher. Their little legs was entirely off the ground, of course, and it really is not possible for Boots to express to me how small them children looked.

"It's Cobbs! It's Cobbs!" cries Master Harry, and comes running to him and catching hold of his hand. Miss Norah comes running to him on t'other side and catching hold of his t'other hand, and they both jump for joy.

"I see you a getting out, sir," says Cobbs. "I thought it was you. I thought I couldn't be mistaken in your height and figure. What's the object of your journey, sir?—Matrimonial?"

"We are going to be married, Cobbs, at Gretna Green," returned the boy. "We have run away on purpose. Norah has been in rather low spirits, Cobbs, but she'll be happy, now we have found you to be our friend."

"Thank you, sir, and thank you, miss," says Cobbs, "for your good opinion. *Did* you bring any luggage with you, sir?"

If I will believe Boots when he gives me his word and honor upon it, the lady had got a parasol, a smelling-bottle, a round and a half of cold buttered toast, eight peppermint drops, and a hairbrush—seemingly a doll's. The gentleman had got about half a dozen yards of string, a knife, three or four sheets of writing-paper folded up surprising small, a orange, and a china mug with his name upon it.

"What may be the exact natur of your plans, sir?" says Cobbs.

"To go on," replied the boy—which the courage of that boy was something wonderful!—"in the morning, and be married tomorrow—Christmas day."

"Just so, sir," says Cobbs. "Would it meet your views, sir, if I was to accompany you?"

When Cobbs said this, they both jumped for joy again, and cried out, "Oh, yes, yes, Cobbs! Yes!"

"Well, sir," says Cobbs. "If you will excuse my having the freedom to give an opinion, what I should recommend would be this. I'm acquainted with a pony, sir, which, put in a pheayton that I could borrow, would take you and Mrs. Harry Walmers, Junior (myself driving, if you approved), to the end of your journey in a very short space of time. I am not altogether sure, sir, that this pony will be at liberty tomorrow, but even if you had to wait over tomorrow for him, it might be worth your while. As to the small account here, sir, in case you was to find yourself running at all short, that don't signify; because I'm a part proprietor of this inn and it could stand over."

Boots assures me that when they clapped their hands and jumped for joy again and called him "Good Cobbs!" and "Dear Cobbs!" and bent across him to kiss one another in the delight of their confiding hearts, he felt himself the meanest rascal for deceiving 'em that ever was born.

"Is there anything you want just at present, sir?" says Cobbs, mortally ashamed of himself.

"We should like some mince pies after dinner," answered Master Harry, folding his arms, putting out one leg and looking

Continued on page 188

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Boots at The Holly-Tree Inn

Continued from page 186

straight at him, "and two apples—and jam. With dinner we should like to have toast and water. But Norah has always been accustomed to half a glass of currant wine at dessert. And so have I."

"It shall be ordered at the bar, sir," says Cobbs, and away he went.

Boots has the feeling as fresh upon him at this minute of speaking as he had then, that he wished with all his heart there was any impossible place where those two babies could make an impossible marriage and live impossibly happy ever afterwards. However, as it couldn't be he told his Master the facts and in half an hour the Master had set out for York.

The way in which the women of that house—without exception, every one of 'em married and single—look to that boy when they heard the story Boots considers surprising. It was as much as he could do to keep 'em from dashing into the room and kissing him. They climbed up all sorts of places at the risk of their lives to look at him through a pane of glass. They was seven deep at the keyhole. They was out of their minds about him and his bold spirit.

In the evening Boots went into the room to see how the runaway couple was getting on. The gentleman was on the window seat, supporting the lady in his arms. She had tears upon her face and was lying, very tired and half asleep, with her head upon his shoulder.

"Mrs. Harry Walmers, Junior, fatigued, sir?" says Cobbs.

"Yes, she is tired, Cobbs, but she is not used to be away from home, and she has been in low spirits again. Cobbs, do you think you could bring a biffin, please?"

"I ask your pardon, sir," says Cobbs. "What was it you—?"

"I think a Norfolk biffin would rouse her, Cobbs. She is very fond of them."

Boots withdrew in search of the required restorative and when he brought it in, the gentleman handed it to the lady, and fed her with a spoon and took a little himself, the lady being heavy with sleep, and rather cross. "What should you think, sir," says Cobbs, "of a chamber candlestick?" The gentleman approved; the chambermaid went up the great staircase first; the lady followed, gallantly escorted by the gentleman; the gentleman embraced her at her door, and retired to his own apartment, where Boots wished him a happy Christmas and softly locked him up.

Boots couldn't but feel with increased acuteness what a base deceiver he was when they consulted him at breakfast (they had ordered sweet milk-and-water, and toast and currant jelly, overnight) about the pony. It really was as much as he could do, he don't mind confessing to me, to look them two young things in the face and think what a wicked old father of lies he had grown up to be. Howsomever, he went on a lying like a Trojan about the pony. He told 'em that it did so unfort'nately happen that the pony was half clipped, you see, and that he couldn't be taken out in that state for fear it should strike to his inside. But that he'd be finished clipping in the course of the day, and that tomorrow morning at eight o'clock the pheayton would be ready, and that the day after Christmas was as good a day to be married on as the Day itself. Boots' view of the whole case, looking back on it in my room, is that Mrs. Harry Walmers Junior was beginning to give in. She hadn't had her hair curled when she went to bed and she didn't seem quite up to brushing it herself, and its getting in her eyes put her out. But nothing put out Master Harry. He sat behind his breakfast cup, a tearing away at the jelly, as if he had been his own father.

In the course of the morning, Master Harry rang the bell—it was surprising how that there boy did carry on—and said, in a sprightly way, "Cobbs, is there any good walks in this neighborhood to the snow?"

"Yes, sir," says Cobbs. "There's Love-lane."

"Get out with you, Cobbs!"—that was that there boy's expression—"you're joking."

"Begging your pardon, sir," says Cobbs, "there really is Love-lane. And a pleasant walk it is, and proud shall I be to show it to yourself and Mrs. Harry Walmers, Junior."

"Norah, dear," said Master Harry, "this is curious. We really ought to see Love-lane. Put on your bonnet, my sweetest darling, and we will go there with Cobbs."

Boots leaves me to judge what a beast he felt himself to be when that young pair told him, as they all three jogged along together, that they had made up their minds to give him two thousand guineas a year as head gardener, on accounts of his being so true a friend to 'em. Boots could have wished at the moment that the earth would have opened and swallowed him up, he felt so mean, with their beaming eyes a looking at him,

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"And just *what* makes you so nervous about an, Mr. Back-seat Driver?"

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Boots at The Holly-Tree Inn

Continued from page 188

and believing him. Well, sir, he turned the conversation as well as he could, and he took 'em down Love-lane to the water-meadows, and there Master Harry would have drowned himself in half a moment more, a gettin' a water-lily out for her from under the ice—but nothing daunted that boy. Well, sir, they was tired out. And they laid down in a sheltered dell like the children in the wood, under the warmest of rugs that he had brought with him, and fell asleep.

Boots don't know why it made a man fit to make a fool of himself to see them two pretty babies a lyin' there in the still sunny frosty Christmas day, not dreaming half so hard when they was asleep as they done when they was awake. But Lord! when you come to think of yourself, you know, and what a game you have been up to ever since you was in your own cradle, and what a poor sort of a chap you are, and how it's always either Yesterday with you, or else Tomorrow, and never Today, that's where it is!

Well sir, they woke up at last, and then one thing was getting pretty clear to Boots, namely, that Mrs. Harry Walmers, Junior's temper was on the move. When Master Harry took her round the waist she said he "teased her so"; and when he says, "Norah my young May Moon, your Harry tease you?" she tells him, "Yes; and I want to go home!"

A boiled fowl and Christmas pudding brought Mrs. Walmers up a little; but Boots could have wished, he must privately own to me, to have seen her more sensible of the voice of love, and less abandoning of herself to currants. However, Master Harry, he kept up, and his noble heart was as fond as ever. Mrs. Walmers turned very sleepy about dusk and began to cry. Therefore, Mrs. Walmers went off to bed as per yesterday, and Master Harry ditto repeated.

About eleven or twelve at night comes back Boots' Master in a chaise, along with Mr. Walmers and a elderly lady. Mr. Walmers looks amused and very serious both at once, and says to our missis "We are much indebted to you, ma'am, for your kind care of our little children, which we can never sufficiently acknowledge. Pray, ma'am, where is my boy?" Our missis says "Cobbs has the dear child in charge, sir. Cobbs, show Room Number Forty!" Then he says to Cobbs, "Ah, Cobbs, I am glad to see you! I understood you was here!" And Cobbs says, "Yes, sir. Your most obedient, sir."

I may be surprised to hear Boots say it, perhaps; but Boots assures me that his heart beat like a hammer, going upstairs. "I beg your pardon, sir," says he while unlocking the door, "I hope you are not angry with Master Harry. For Master Harry is a fine boy, sir, and will do you credit and honor." And Boots signifies to me, that, if the fine boy's father had contradicted him in the daring state of mind in which he was, he thinks he should have "fetched him a crack," and taken the consequences.

But Mr. Walmers only says, "No, Cobbs. No, my good fellow. Thank you!" And, the door being opened, goes in.

Boots goes in too, holding the light, and he sees Mr. Walmers go up to the bedside, bend gently down, and kiss the little sleeping face. Then he stands looking at it for a minute, looking wonderfully like it (they do say he ran away with Mrs. Walmers); and gently shakes the little shoulder.

"Harry, my dear boy! Harry!"

Master Harry starts up and looks at him. Looks at Cobbs too. Such is the honor of that mite, that he looks at Cobbs to see whether he has brought him into trouble.

"I am not angry, my child. I only want you to dress yourself and come home."

"Yes, pa."

Master Harry dresses himself quickly. His breast begins to swell when he has nearly finished, and it swells more and more as he stands, at last, a looking at his father: his father standing a looking at him, the quiet image of him.

"Please may I—" the spirit of that little creatur, and the way he kept his rising tears down!—"please, dear pa—may I—kiss Norah before I go?"

"You may, my child."

So he takes Master Harry in his hand, and Boots leads the way with the candle, and they come to that other bedroom, where the elderly lady is seated by the bed, and poor little Mrs. Harry Walmers, Junior, is fast asleep. There the father lifts the child up to the pillow, and he lays his little face down for an instant by the little warm face of poor unconscious little Mrs. Harry Walmers, Junior, and gently draws it to him—a sight so touching to the chambermaids who are peeping through the door, that one of them calls out "It's a shame to part 'em!" But this chambermaid was always, as Boots informs me, a soft-hearted one. Not that there was any harm in that girl. Far from it.

Finally, Boots says, that's all about it. Mr. Walmers drove away in the chaise, having hold of Master Harry's hand. The elderly lady and Mrs. Harry Walmers Junior that was never to be (she married a Captain long afterwards, and died in India) went off next day. In conclusion, Boots put it to me whether I hold with him in two opinions: firstly, that there are not many couples on their way to be married who are half as innocent of guile as those two children; secondly, that it would be a jolly good thing for a great many couples on their way to be married (whether on Christmas Day, or any other) if they could only be stopped in time, and brought back separately. #

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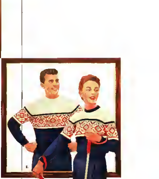

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Paris à la Maurice

Continued from page 99

ged stair-carpet. He is served by a valet-secretary and a tiny middle-aged maid whom he calls "The Boss" and sometimes "My Governess." The valet doubles in brass at the theatre, perhaps helping each pay night to heft home the master's salary, which for twenty years has swung from six to sixteen thousand dollars a week. But the President's continued earning power and his enormous real-estate holdings fail to reassure him.

Two pictures in Chevalier's Avenue Foch ménage stand as constant reminders of his beginnings. One is the Utrillo painting of a squalid street in the rough Ménilmontant, the laborers' district where Maurice was born. The other is Dunan's portrait of his mother, a faithful transference from an old photograph of her pinched, hunger-sculptured face and corrugated hands—La Louque, the indomitable little lacemaker of No. 15 rue Julien Lacroix. The only color the artist has added to the rusty black garments and the sallow grey face is the shining ice-blue of the eyes whose rims sometimes bled from endless hours of microscopic sewing beside the oil lamp turned down because le petit Maurice and his older brothers had retired to their corner of the room. The only untrue detail is La Louque's tired hands folded and resting—as they never did in life.

The President continues to work at sixty-four, continues to salt away annuities, bonds, real estate, without much hope or optimism. "In this world *one thing* is certain: that *nothing* is certain! We see all around us possessions, money vanishing like magician's cards—like that!" He snaps his fingers. "When one grows older one can renounce much, but I would like to have left at the end a little of the *noblesse*—the graciousness, you say?—of my life." And so, as many an ambulating Parisian seems to be a gay boulevardier because he lacks the bus fare, Chevalier, the greatest boulevardier of them all, walks to "walk my thoughts into place." With his snap-brim down and the collar of his belted aquascutum up, he trudges the cobbled streets of his city, unrecognized and unnoticed. "Sometimes I walk to Ménilmontant—Belleville. I go as a pilgrim to visit those humble people from whom I sprang. It is as it always was—nothing has changed."

Here in the sand piles of the rue Sorbier le petit Maurice and his patient brother Paul practiced the somersaults and balancings that might have made them Les Brothers Chevalier, Acrobats, if his first pair of tights hadn't revealed that Paul was comically bow-legged. There is the horse-meat market whose butcher felt so sorry for Mamma Chevalier's skinny kid with the big head that he usually slipped him a link of horse sausage as a dividend. Across the river is the Children's Aid asylum where the boy sweated out an eternity while La Louque, in a distant charity hospital, fought her way back to health and her children. There is the free parochial school where M. Chevalier was taught, there the public school where he got his *Certificat d'Etudes* at the age of ten.

The following Monday he began his working life, but his mind was on brighter things. He was fired from the engraver's, the carpenter shop, and the doll factory. During his brief stay in a tack works his mysterious disappearances into the water closet were finally explained: the toilet seat was a perfect platform from which to sing to an imaginary audience.

The Nineties were the days of the great chanteurs and comedians—Mayol, Dranem, Polin—and little Chevalier heard these gods when La Louque took him on rare holidays to the Cirque d'Hiver or the gallery of the Eldorado. And nearer to home the performers in the neighborhood café music halls were encouragingly dreadful. "I heard fellows sing with no voice at all. I had no voice also. Why should I not become a singer also?" The future President painted his nose bright red. He rented a mammoth pair of shoes and a mad hat. La Louque put down her lace long enough to sew him into some comic britches, and Le Petit Maurice made his debut in an amateur show at a local *bouis-bouis*, le café des Trois Lions. The roaring laughter was at him, not with him; he did not know that a chanteur is at his best when singing in the key set by the accompanying piano.

But La Louque applauded and so did his brother Paul. They encouraged him to try again; they excused his periodic dismissals from his daytime jobs; they even eked out his professional expenses with centimes from their sweated labor and defended him from the scorn of the neighbors, who saw the boy as a sponger on his mother's poverty. Maurice never forgot their loyalty: until her death Mamma Chevalier was his partner in everything he possessed, and today Paul, at 72, suns himself and paints landscapes in La Bocca, near Nice, at the Chevalier villa named "La Louque."

The café of the Three Lions was the beginning: the first grotesque make-up, the first comic hat in a long line of prop headgear: the apache's cap, the tramp's battered derby, the baby bonnet, the soldier-képis, the curate's pancake. Le Petit Chevalier was twelve and his first appearance wasn't his last failure, but slowly he learned his trade. For a year, until he signed his first contract for twelve francs a week at the Casino de Tourelles, his salary was a cup of coffee or (if a floor

Continued on page 194

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Paris à la Maurice

Continued from page 193

was sufficiently amused by a smutty song or joke) a plate of Tripe à la Mode de Caen. There were hungry lapses of unemployment, desperate moments of doubt, between the small café de la Presse in 1902 and the vast Parisiana music hall in 1904. There was road work in Le Havre, Tours, Marseilles where if an actor failed to please them the sailors and stevedores climbed on the stage and let him know it. In 1907, at the age of nineteen, Maurice replaced Dranem at the great Eldorado Music Hall. His salary there was a thousand francs a month and out in front watching him were such celebrities as King Leopold of Belgium and his flame Cléo de Mérode, the feared critic Catulle Mendès, *femmes fatales* Liane de Pougy and Jeanne Lorraine, and Mistinguett, the brightest jewel in the crown of Paris.

Maurice was still learning. He studied the techniques of Mayol and Dranem and haunted the theatres where popular foreign artists were playing. From Tich and Norman French—particularly from French, who accompanied his lazy soft-shoe routines with easy patter and comic gestures—he learned eccentric dancing. He copied parts of their acts, adding his acrobatic and boxing ability and his insouciant protuberances, the lip and the rear end, and Paris began to talk of a "Chevalier style." He also learned the meaning of his craft. "A career is like a good marriage. You must keep the audience in love with you, and permit no one to see how you do it. The way a good woman keeps her man. You must never punch. You must not strain. You cannot rape success!"

His next contract gave him three years in the top music hall of Europe, the Folies Bergère, and the second year its star of stars was Mistinguett. Chevalier had long adored her from afar. "The first time I saw her I received the shock! From the soles of my shoes!" Where Mistinguett was concerned shock-position was normal, but Maurice was scarcely eligible. Bankers, maharajahs, cabinet-members had their opera glasses focused on the actress' childlike face, her evocative body. Every rich dandy thrilled to her drawling voice that rang with the metallic reality of the Paris pavements. Mist, the *dominatrice*—the sublime vanquisher of snobs!" Maurice had known other women, of course. You can't walk the dark streets of Ménilmontant or entertain in bistro pick-up joints without learning about sex—even at thirteen. Maurice had known plenty of women. Mistinguett was his first goddess.

He was assigned the role of the star's "feed," her dancing partner, her support. They got along from the start. They both came from the wrong side of the faubourgs and Maurice could laugh and joke and be himself with her—at ease, except for his heightened pulse. He struggled not to reveal these palpitations. "I have to fight not to show my liking for women. If I didn't it would be most impolite!"

Their specialty in the revue was a satiric knockabout dance: two lovers, lost in each other's arms, waltzing around the room. In their ecstasy they overturn tables and chairs, whirl over a sofa, and roll up in a rug, then unroll and, still waltzing, make a grand exit through the window and over the scenic housetops. The night arrived, of course, when Mist and Maurice did not unroll on cue. It had happened.

Their love story charmed Paris for almost a decade. The affair began secretly. Mistinguett, afraid that the public would discover her passion for this magnificent unknown, set their meetings in a small café on the Boulevard de Strasbourg and came heavily veiled. Nine years later, when the unknown was so famous that he shared star-billing with his mistress, the affair ended. Such are the ironies of the theatre.

In any other profession, in any other country, the Mistinguett-Chevalier liaison would have become a marriage. Mist worked over the nervous, socially inept young man as thoroughly as an IBM executive-wife. She fitted him into his first tuxedo, saw to it that he was invited to the right places, convinced him that he was not a gate-crasher but a welcome addition to Paris café-society. She loved him like a wife and a Frenchwoman—deeply, but practically. When his period of military service came up she kissed him goodby at the Gare du Nord like any other wife. In 1914, when the combat training became actual combat, she took over the support of La Louque. The glamorous mistress and the little bourgeois mother wrote letters, knitted socks, and sent food parcels together.

During his first engagement at Cutry Chevalier received a piece of shrapnel in his right lung and he still carries it. He was hospitalized at Cons la Grande Ville, and before he could be moved the Germans captured the château. The wounded were piled into cattle cars and sent off to Germany as prisoners of war. In the prison camp at Alten Grabow Maurice became a medical orderly, and then, after he had been a prisoner for 26 months, he and a number of the orderlies were released and repatriated through a Red Cross exchange plan.

He returned to Paris, where his job was waiting for him at the Folies Bergère. He was welcomed back by the public and by Mistinguett as a wounded hero. But Mistinguett's apartment—its black velvet divans, its stuffed leopard stretched on the rug, its

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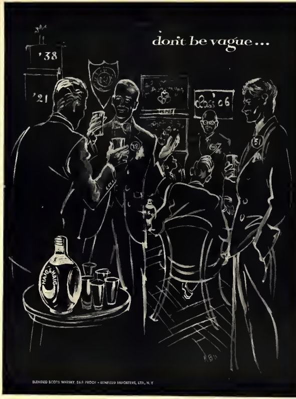
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Paris à la Maurice

Continued from page 194

prop lamppost leaning against the piano, ready to go to any hearth where an apache torch song might be needed—must have irritated a man who had been looking at death and illness for 26 months. At the same time Mist was annoyed by his moodiness and drinking—and his growing popularity which was rising above her own.

He dropped his grotesque comic make-ups, worked in his own bare face and got bigger and better laughs. He went to London to co-star with Elsie Janis and was introduced to the great tailors of the day—Anderson-Sheppard, Poole, Hawes and Curtis. He discovered that clothes create the man, that an apprentice tack-maker from Ménilmontant can look like an English prince if the dinner jacket is fine enough. On his return to Paris he chucked the comedy pants and for his opening at the Casino de Paris he wore a tuxedo. He couldn't go all the way; he still must have a hat. But what headpiece would go with his new evening gear? An opera hat? A fedora? A Homburg?

He chose a stiff straw sailor, and the choice wrought a miracle. There have been a thousand attempts to explain this miracle but William Bolitho's, written shortly after the event, probably comes nearest the mark. "Just before the War—only four or five years before the modern epoch—young men dressed like this in the evenings and had fun boating at L'Isle Adam or at open air balls that very hot Summer of 1914 at Montmorency or at St. Germain or out at dinner, with Montmartre to follow. Some of them came back and all of them wanted to remember about it the very first thing. It was Chevalier in the fiercest gayest mood of them all who jumped with a huge bound on the reopened stage of the Casino de Paris, the first back into the old life. Look at Chevalier's queer straw hat with the same shiver as when you see the Cap of Liberty stuck up in Tammany Hall or the Crown of England. There is human history in it."

He sang *I Cannot Live Without Love* and stopped the show. Before this opening he'd been amusing; now in the smart clothes and the straight make-up, he was the Unofficial President of the République. The frog walk, the gamin lip, the large boxer's hands became sexy without losing their wit. Suddenly Chevalier was movie-star material. The sails of those two California Columbuses, the late Irving Thalberg and Jesse Lasky, hove into sight over the waves of fainting stage-door Jeannes. In quick succession Maurice starred in a musical comedy written specially for him, broke off with Mistinguett forever, had a nervous breakdown, married the girl who nursed him through it, tiny, brunette Yvonne Vallee, and signed a movie contract with Mr. Lasky of Paramount.

Until 1934 Chevalier commuted between Hollywood, New York, Paris, London, and Nice. His pictures—*Innocents of Paris, The Love Parade, The Smiling Lieutenant, The Merry Widow*—were enormously successful. His feud with another redheaded star, Jeanette MacDonald, became an international betting matter. His face and name were publicized in a manner that was possible only at that time, only in that business. He acquired at least two songs, *Louise* and *Mimi*, that are still in his music case today. He made two enduring friends, Marlene Dietrich and Charles Boyer. Between films he appeared in New York, first on the Ziegfeld Roof in a variety revue co-starring Paul Whiteman and Helen Kane, later at the Gaiety with a young Negro band leader named Duke Ellington in a concertlike vaudeville which evolved into Maurice Chevalier's One-Man Show. His billing as "The Highest Paid Artist In the World" impressed even George Bernard Shaw, who insisted that Chevalier come to call at Adelphi Terrace and then couldn't seem to remember the Frenchman's name.

The President had money without measure in the era before stratospheric taxes; he had fame, but he was not happy. Because he was French, Hollywood demanded of him a sophistication that he did not possess; his face was sore from smiling for publicity stills; he chafed under the cute Graustarkian film character in which Lubitsch had encased him. His personal life was disastrous. La Louque died with the sea between them. Yvonne Vallee sued him for divorce, and the Paris Court, with true Gallic justice, not only granted her a divorce from him but insisted on granting him a divorce from her—the grounds, her jealousy.

Today, more than fifty years after the uncorking, Chevalier's talent still sparkles like a draught of Dom Pérignon. The bouquet is still perfect—1887 must have been a great vintage. He still has a heady effect on the customers—in his American one-man tour of 1948, in Canada, in South America, in Africa, in his home town at the ABC and last summer at the Empire. "I would never dare to stop working! One must keep always in the swing of events!" Though he may rib Paul Godkin, the choreographer, for "trying to make a jitterbug of your grandfather!" he learns the dance routines faster than anybody in the company. And each day at noon a music professor arrives at the flat on the Avenue Foch to teach the star musical theory so that some day he may write his own songs.

"At sixty-five," says Maurice Chevalier, "one begins to think occasionally of other things besides l'amour!" #

Continued from page 97

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Dateline: Tokyo

Continued from page 127

ades exploded harmlessly against the wall of the building. On another occasion he carelessly pulled the pin on a grenade in the bar, precipitating an exodus that for speed is unmatched in the club's history.

Australian members have added much to the gaiety of nations at the club. In 1946 in celebration of Australian Day, the Australian contingent procured from the Tokyo zoo a young kangaroo. During dinner at the club the kangaroo's behavior was such as to reflect only credit on his native land. At the conclusion of the festivities, however, a small stray cur barked at the kangaroo and set it to flight. Australians, sensitive to their national honor even under the most favorable circumstances, so resented American remarks on the kangaroo's cowardly conduct that we had trouble preventing a fight.

The Tokyo Correspondents Club was born in October, 1945, as a child of crisis. Nearly a hundred correspondents were then billeted at the Dai Ichi Hotel, one of Tokyo's best, and dozens of "chicken" colonels were waiting offshore for housing appropriate to their rank. Moreover, relations between the correspondents, an irreverent lot, and the colonels already resident at the Dai Ichi were nearing the point of open warfare.

These relations were not improved when a well-known American correspondent, now a dignified editor and publisher, squirted a colonel with a fire extinguisher during a fire drill, and, in the absence of an established system of priorities, their squabbles were always starting in the elevator. Once ABC correspondent Larry Tighe, a strong champion of human rights, asked to be let off at the third floor. A colonel on the same elevator demanded to be taken to the fifth floor nonstop. Tighe was so incensed at this infringement on the freedom of the press that the elevator was about to become the scene of carnage when the Japanese operator stopped at the third floor. The stop was just as well for the colonel, for Tighe, whose natural beauty was enhanced by a brief career in the prize-fight ring, is a handy man with his fists.

The correspondents were as eager to leave the stuffy atmosphere of the Dai Ichi as the Army was to have them leave—providing they would have a home of their own. For several weeks some newspapermen had been gathering at the Marunouchi Kaikan, a five-story restaurant only three blocks from the Dai Ichi Building, to drink beer as guests of Japanese colleagues who used the first floor of the building as their own press club. This hospitality was appreciated but slightly abused. Shortly the Japanese were out and the allied press was in, occupying all five floors with the blessing of Brigadier General LeGrande Diller, MacArthur's press officer, who could hardly contain his delight at having the press-housing problem off his hands.

Indeed, Diller was so delighted that he had ninety beds flown up from the Philippines so the correspondents could be comfortable.

Since they had fought a running war with Diller all across the Pacific, some correspondents viewed Diller's co-operation with a baleful eye. Meanwhile, they fell, with the enthusiasm of a new bride, upon the task of making their new nest habitable.

There was plenty to be done. The kitchen was covered with grime so thick that when the correspondents scraped the wall they found a window. Rotting fish heads lay on the floor. A progress report by Secretary Cornelius Ryan notes that "More than 40 truckloads of dirt, trash and even 18 gallons of maggots have been removed from the premises."

The press corps' most expert scroungers fanned out over Tokyo in search of useful objects.

One of the club's most dedicated workers was Don Starr of the Chicago *Tribune*. The steam radiators had been removed from the building. Starr noted the fact and demanded their return. The Japanese said they didn't know where the radiators were, since they had been removed for scrap.

"You took them out to melt them down to shoot at us," Starr told the Japanese, "and you can damn well put them back."

The radiators were returned.

Some of his fellow members felt that Starr was perhaps overconscientious in guarding the welfare of the club's bevy of waitresses, for whom a dormitory had been provided next door. Each night Starr personally escorted the waitresses to the dormitory, conducted a head count to see that none was missing and locked them safely in. To guarantee his own integrity, Starr insisted that another member come with him.

Then, purely incidentally, there was the matter of obtaining a lease on the building from its rightful owners, the Mitsubishi Estate. This situation was complicated by the fact that the building was already leased to a Japanese restaurant operator, but once the proper parties were located there was little difficulty in negotiating the lease. Points of possible disagreement were overcome with "Who won the war, anyway?" Seeking, however, to arrive at a fair rental, the press asked the restaurant man how much he had earned on the building the previous year. The answer was four thousand yen, and the correspondents magnanimously gave him eight thousand yen, about five hundred dollars at the existing rate of exchange.

Of course this payment was under the condition that the owners keep the building in repair. An

Continued on page 200

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Dateline: Tokyo

Continued from page 108

early progress report states: "The refrigerator is now working and maintaining a temperature of 32 degrees. The cost of this job, like all the other repairs, has been hung on Mitsubishi."

Mitsubishi, however, refused to pay for repairs. Consequently the club never paid any rent.

It was not until three years later, through the good offices of Colonel Harold Eastwood, that the club finally reached a formal agreement with the Mitsubishi people.

Eastwood regretfully told the Japanese that unless they were able to come to an agreement with the club the Army would have no alternative but to requisition the building, which meant the owners wouldn't get a cent from their property.

The Japanese received this stunning news in stone silence.

"Do they understand?" Eastwood asked the interpreter.

"Yes, sir, they understand," the interpreter replied. "They just didn't know the Army felt that way about it."

While the club was being readied for occupancy there was a noticeable slackening in the volume of copy filed from Tokyo. Two correspondents for a midwestern daily devoted most of their time and energies to club affairs, each under the assumption that the other was filing. Then they discovered that neither had sent a story in nearly two weeks. They fled in panic to the cable room and found a message from their home office. It said:

"Downhold."

The club was founded with 63 members, each of whom put up one hundred dollars, an expenditure artfully disguised in the following month's expense accounts. Howard Handleman, Far East director of International News Service, was the club's first president. He recalls the early days with the nostalgia of the happily domesticated male.

"You didn't dare stay away from the place at night for fear of what you would miss," he says. "If there wasn't a fight on the first floor you could always go up to the third."

Once they had got their house in order the correspondents fell happily to quarreling among themselves. The first burning issue to confront the membership was whether Japanese would be admitted to the club as guests. Since the Army was running the club's mess and frowned on feeding Army food to indigenous personnel, there was a valid legal objection to Japanese. Opponents of racial discrimination were loud and vocal. One member, an Australian, vowed that he would resign if the word "Japanese" appeared in the club's constitution or bylaws.

The atmosphere became so heated that President Handleman, fearing violence, ordered the opposing factions to assemble on opposite sides of the room so a vote could be taken. The vote went to admitting the Japanese.

Another persistently troublesome issue was the matter of women guests. The minutes of a meeting on May 31, 1946, as recorded by the industrious Burton Crane of the New York *Times*, opened with these words:

"Mr. — moved that the rule forbidding women above the first floor of the building between midnight and 9 a.m. be rescinded." The motion lost fourteen to four. Those who opposed lifting the ban were motivated less by moral considerations than by a distaste for the smell of fish frying as lady guests prepared their breakfasts.

The opponents of the first-floor rule were a well-organized, determined minority and they refused to admit defeat. Under pressure the majority yielded an inch and relaxed the rules to read that no women would be allowed above the ground floor between the hours of four and six in the morning.

This concession boomeranged. Promptly at four, the lobby filled with sleepy-eyed Japanese girls and their male escorts. Promptly at six they went back upstairs. After a few nights of this the majority opposition collapsed.

There were other minor irritations. Crane's minutes of one meeting note that Mark Gayn "moved that Assistant Manager Kobayashi be told to instruct the boys that club members' wastebaskets were not to be regarded as treasure trove. In the discussion on this point Fred Sparks complained that the worst pictures he had taken in Japan had been abstracted from his wastebasket and published to wide acclaim in *Mainichi Shimbun*."

Money was no problem in those days. Minutes of the September 5, 1946 meeting read: "The treasurer's report as prepared by the wily Ling (the club's Chinese bookkeeper) showed a cash balance on hand of $14,899.07 and a heterogeneous mass of other figures—including proceeds from the sale of rubber boots. Since the total showed a modest increase in assets it was accepted without a dissenting murmur."

By 1948, however, membership and patronage had shrunk so seriously that the club was in a financial crisis. The furniture was falling apart, the dining room was losing money, and one of the club's aged boilers was about to blow up.

Violent discord came to the rescue. The newly elected executive committee decided that many of the club's financial ills could be eliminated by dispensing with the services of its manager, Dick Hughes, a popular and likable Australian correspondent. There was nothing personal in the committee's action. They liked Hughes, they just didn't think the club could afford him.

What laid the committee open to censure was the fact that the

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Dateline: Tokyo

Continued from page 200

decision to abolish the manager's job was reached while Hughes was on leave in Australia.

The club rocked to the fifth floor under the explosion. Hughes' supporters, led by an impetuous Australian colleague, cried that Hughes had been "stabbed in the back." Petitions flew like confetti. A red-haired British woman correspondent defaced a picture of the club president that hung in the bar, then moved out of the club, saying she preferred to sleep in the moat around the imperial palace. She demanded that *The Saturday Evening Post* correspondent Nora Waln do the same. Nora declined, saying she was too old to sleep in the moat.

When the smoke of the battle cleared, the membership had voted two to one to sustain the committee's action. A motion for a vote of no confidence in the committee died for a lack of a second. The secretary's minutes then noted that, "Much to the relief of the committee the meeting adjourned." I can vouch for those sentiments, for I was the president.

The minority, however, was not through. More than a dozen members resigned in protest and, after advertising their disaffection in the *Nippon Times*, set about forming a rival organization known as the Overseas Press Club of Japan. This organization never got beyond the letterhead stage and eventually died a natural death.

Correspondents' wives played a large part in holding the club together during this period of trial, and some correspondents proposed that they be voted in as members. The move might have been carried, but the ladies discovered that one of the bachelor members on the fifth floor was living out of wedlock with a Japanese girl and embarked on a morals crusade. They were horrified rather than mollified when told this informal arrangement had been going on for two years.

The executive committee was called into special session to consider a way out of this dilemma, and the renowned press-club lawyer, Earnest Hoberecht of the United Press, came up with a solution. (Hoberecht had already earned a degree of fame as the author of a book called *Tokyo Romance* which *Life* Magazine described as "possibly the worst novel of modern times." Hoberecht refuted this criticism with the solid argument that he had written worse books himself.) Digging back into the inner recesses of his memory, Hoberecht recalled that a case in his home county in Oklahoma had established the legality of common-law marriage in that state. Why not, asked Hoberecht, have the executive committee rule that the bachelor correspondent and his Japanese mistress were a true married pair?

The executive committee adopted Hoberecht's suggestion in the next breath. That afternoon I met the worried "groom" with the shocking news of his "marriage." There was only one string attached—he would have to pay room rent on his "wife." The "marriage," incidentally, is still good four years later, which is more than can be said for some.

Most of the club problems arising from the Korean war have fallen on the boyish shoulders of President Joe Fromm of the *U. S. News & World Report*. From his five feet three and one-half inches Fromm has risen to the occasion. Moreover, he still finds time to do a first-rate job of reporting for his magazine and to think up all the answers to the manifold problems of the Far East. (In the bar one day a friend of Fromm's was asked for an opinion on a certain issue. "I don't know," he said. "I haven't talked to Fromm yet.")

Today only a few of the old faces are still around and resident at the club. Among them are the Zenier brothers—Gene and Julio—newsreel cameramen and entrepreneurs who are reputed to control the club's Italian bloc. Another is Hessell Tiltman, the precise and perennial correspondent for the Manchester *Guardian*.

Some of the correspondents who lived, ate and drank in Shimbun Alley will never be back. Six were killed in action in Korea, eight died in plane crashes in covering the war, two are missing and presumed dead, three are prisoners and nine were wounded in action.

The face of one of these absent peers mischievously down from a framed picture on the wall. It belongs to Charles Rosecrans, a small, dark, puckish man beloved by his colleagues. Wherever "Rosy" went he brought good cheer. He also took some of the best pictures of the Korean war.

Rosy was sometimes called "Packmouse" because of his prodigious scrounging. He was the only man I'd ever known who would stop to collect a crescent saw in the middle of a retreat. "You can never tell when you'll need a crescent saw," Rosy said.

And a small organ, which once belonged to a bomb-wrecked Korean schoolhouse, now rests in the club lounge, a product of Rosy's acquisitive instincts.

In 1950, when Rosy was killed in a plane crash, his colleagues gathered his personal belongings to return them to Japan. These effects included one large, bulging duffel bag.

Someone, recalling Rosy's passion for collecting, suggested that they look inside the bag. They opened it and found it full of hand grenades and .50-caliber machine-gun ammunition. If Rosy had been around to explain, he would have said:

"You never can tell when you'll need grenades and .50-caliber machine-gun ammunition." ■

Continued from page 190

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Mrs. Fanshawe's Heir

Continued from page 118

gratulate the Perriers on the disclosures of the afternoon but I restrained myself and asked if they proposed to make Dormont Park their home. Henri assured me that they would; he was in love with the gazebo, the lake and the artificial ruin. A Frenchman, he did not conceal his delight at the contents of the will just as earlier on he had demonstrated far more grief than any other member of the family. I follow a calling which is supposed to harden the heart but I left the house very much affected by the prospect of those two young attractive people garlanded with fortune. Admittedly, I was also warmed by a liberal share of Madeira.

I had not been long at my house on the other side of Tunbridge Wells when there was a telephone call from Dormont Park. It was from a man I very much disliked —Chambers, the librarian. Mrs. Fanshawe had never had a librarian until Chambers had come to her house five years before, and it had been obvious that she had invented the position specifically to bring him there. He was now about forty, pink-eyed, undersized, conceited. He was aggressively mindful of his humble birth, alternately rude and ingratiating. Though not at all educated in the ordinary disciplines, he seemed to have acquired a great deal of exotic knowledge, which included the eastern religions and mystical philosophies in which Mrs. Fanshawe had taken an emotional interest. Chambers served as something between a court philosopher and court astrologer. He ought to have been interesting, but in fact I have never met a more unpleasant man. He made mischief with extreme cunning and, taking his pleasures freely with the servants, was in many ways the real master of the house.

On the telephone he used his most amiable manner.

"Listen, old man, I'm afraid I'm quite suddenly ill. Not sick— pains and giddiness. I wondered if you could possibly come."

I told him I would send my partner straight away. But for my professional position, I might have added that Dr. Smith was better qualified than I to deal with neurotic afflictions and hypochondriacs.

Chambers was not to be rebuffed.

"You disappoint me, Dr. Mason," he said. "You must know it is you I want to consult. Besides it is not only illness. There is something else I want to speak to you about."

I hesitated. "Well—"

"I think you'll come," he said, and hung up. Like all too many

Continued on page 206

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Mrs. Fanshawe's Heir

Continued from page 204

of his tricks, it worked and I went. At the door of the house I met Barbara.

"Chambers sent for me," I explained.

"Yes," she said. "At six o'clock we told him he would have to go. Half an hour later he was ill."

"Then I shan't have to look far for a cure."

Chambers was in bed, and his symptoms were genuine enough at any rate, he had a temperature and was trembling. I gave him a sedative and told him to rest a day or two in bed.

"You wanted something else?" I added.

"I wanted to ask you what you proposed to do with Mrs. Fanshawe's letters."

"Letters?" For a moment I was puzzled.

"Those she put into your keeping until she was dead."

Then I remembered. Three years before Mrs. Fanshawe had given me a sealed packet containing letters she had once received from an undergraduate at Oxford who later achieved some celebrity in politics. Mrs. Fanshawe believed that her correspondent was a great statesman and that historians would be intensely interested in everything to do with him. She was in many ways romantic. In truth her old admirer was not an especially distinguished man, although he had sat in the Commons for many years. I had taken the letters to please her and had almost forgotten they were in my safe.

"Have you read them?" Chambers asked.

"No."

"But you know they are from John Tenner?"

"So I believe." I thought it was time to change the subject and I added, "I understand you are going soon."

"That is Madame Perrier's wish. I've told her I am working on a history of the family and that all the material for it is in the library. She doesn't seem to understand the importance of the work."

I left Chambers to the pleasures of moral indignation and returned to my house. A day or two later I found time to open the sealed packet that he had mentioned to me. The letters were as bad as I had feared—as embarrassing to read as other people's love letters usually are. I read only a few. I wondered whether to destroy them or to send them to the man who had written them. It was then I realized that there was something else in the packet besides the letters—a long sheet of paper inscribed in Mrs. Fanshawe's own large sprawling handwriting. It looked like a will, and it was dated. I immediately noticed the 22nd August 1946. Had not someone said that the will Mr. Pearson read had been dated 1944?

It is difficult to remember exactly what I felt as I read on. But I noticed at once that my name was mentioned.

"To my dear Friend and physician, Dr. Wilfrid Mason, I leave all my property in Italy including the Villa Maria at Florence and the rents from the neighboring holdings."

The Villa Maria had long been one of the things I most coveted. It was incredibly beautiful. From its terraces there was a view over all Florence, for it was high up, near the Church of San Miniato, and there was a garden where lime trees grew. It was not large, but it was splendidly furnished, and there were pictures on the walls by Titian and Mantegna and Filippo Lippi.

I was not a poor man, but I had lived too long beyond my means to hope ever to buy such a place for myself. I was overworked and very tired, I wanted to spend more time away from England in some warmer place. I loved Italy. And anyone who had the Villa Maria and the rents from Mrs. Fanshawe's Italian estates would be able to live pleasantly in Italy for several months a year.

I returned my attention to the will and read on. The next paragraph was, if anything, more startling than the first had been.

"Furthermore, do I, Ursula Victoria Fanshawe, hereby give and bequeath, without condition or reservation, the whole of my property, possessions, land, investments, estates and advowsons in England to Theodore Chambers, my very dear friend and librarian at Dormont Park in the county of Sussex."

I pushed the paper in the pocket of my jacket and went to my duties in my surgery. I hoped that the document was not legally in order, for I did not think I could ever settle what to do about it if it were. At seven o'clock I took out my car and drove to London to find out. I knew there would be someone in my club who could tell me if it was a valid will or not. Before I left I telephoned to Barbara. I mentioned that I was unsure about the Tenner letters her grandmother had left in my possession. Had she made any reference to them in her will? No. And the date of the will?

"January 15th, 1944."

So the document in my possession was two years more recent.

"By the way," Barbara went on, "Chambers is quite well again. We've said he can stay for six months. He got on to Lord Fanshawe, and he's made us all feel rather guilty."

"Oh, yes?"

I hardly heard what she said.

Continued on page 208

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Mrs. Fanshawe's Heir

Continued from page 207

I was thinking other thoughts.

Two hours later I had got to Pall Mall. A man from the Temple was in the bar at the club. We chatted for some minutes, and then I fished out my papers.

"You can keep a secret?" I asked him.

"Without any effort."

"Then look at this. Is it any good?"

"You ought to show it to your solicitor," he advised. "I'm an advocate."

He read it through.

"Not written by a lawyer," he said.

"But is it legal?"

"I don't know about the advowsons. They're a bit tricky nowadays. But the rest is all right. Yes," he said, folding it carefully. "I should say it's a perfectly good will."

For some days I thought of little else. It was intolerable that Chambers should inherit Dormont Park and all the rest of Mrs. Fanshawe's fortune. It was almost as intolerable that the Perriers should lose it. But I wanted the Villa Maria more than I can say.

The first solution that occurred to me was not a very honest one—such inspirations rarely are. I could go to Henri Perrier, a Frenchman, after all, and very practical, and I could say to him: "I like this will no more than you do. But I want the bequest that is left to me in it. Give me the Villa Maria, and I will give you this will to destroy."

But supposing Henri Perrier was not so hard-boiled after all? And then of course the property belonged to Barbara as much as to him, and she, I was sure, was incorruptible. The idea was no good.

For some days I did nothing, decided nothing. Then something happened which hardened yet further my attitude to Chambers. I received a letter from the Right Hon. John Tenner saying that some letters he had once written to Mrs. Fanshawe had been traced to me. His informant was Mr. Theodore Chambers. Mr. Tenner went on to say that he had a legal right to recover these letters as his own property, and so no reason to expect, from a family of the Fanshawes' standing, that they would be sent to him. But since he understood that I had bought the letters for a sum of money, he was willing, through Mr. Chambers, to come to some sort of terms with me.

I at once telephoned to Mr. Tenner in London and drove out to Dormont Park to see his informant.

Chambers received me with a most affable grin.

"What do you mean," I demanded, "by telling Mr. Tenner I paid for Mrs. Fanshawe's letters?"

"You didn't?"

"You know I didn't!"

"Dear me, old boy, don't be so emotional. What does it matter? If you didn't, so much more to the good. Tenner's quite eager to pay up. And people don't appreciate what they don't buy. I was doing you a good turn, my dear Mason. I like to look after my friends."

I resented being called his friend. I said: "You certainly like to look after yourself."

He was seated very comfortably in the room he had made his own at Dormont Park. Already some of Mrs. Fanshawe's belongings had found their way there: the Louis XV clock, the Spanish desk and the hideous Raeburn portrait of the second Baron.

"I am here," he suddenly shouted at me, "because Lord Fanshawe told me I must finish the work I had undertaken to do. I don't think you quite know what it means to be a man of your word, Dr. Mason."

As I left the house I saw Henri and Barbara on the lawn. He was wearing a French workman's suit of blue calico, painting at an easel; his wife, looking rather like a student from an art school, in slacks and a colored shirt, was busy with a rose tree.

"Are you allowed on the rose trees?" I asked her, thinking of the tyranny of gardeners.

"They don't seem to mind what she does," her husband assured me.

I could see that he was right. She was irresistible; she was probably the most successful chatelaine in the history of Dormont Park, as well as the least conventional. And no one could have liked the place or appreciated the quality and texture of every stone, as Henri did. I was almost unnerved by the thought that I had it in my power to dispossess them.

The next day I had some patients to attend at a nursing home which belonged to an Austrian woman doctor. For some time I was left alone in her sitting room to write prescriptions and reports. Although it was not an excessively cold day, she had a porcelain stove burning brightly. I shall always remember how I crossed the floor to it to try to regulate the heat—because it was then that I made up my mind. I took Mrs. Fanshawe's will from my pocket, opened the doors of the stove and pushed it in.

I thus set myself a problem which I suspect I shall never solve. I had thrown away the thing I wanted most in life: but why? Had I acted from hatred of Chambers? From a sort of moral distaste for the injustice of the will I had destroyed? Or had I acted from love of the Perriers? And if so, what sort of love? And how far had I betrayed my dead friend?

More and more I found myself reflecting on problems I could not

Continued on page 210

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Mrs. Fanshawe's Heir

Continued from page 209

solve. They had become almost an obsession with me. I half wanted to tell the story to my younger partner, but some obscure sense of prudence held me back.

So the time passed until one morning I met a man I half knew in the bar of a hotel in Tunbridge Wells. Had he perhaps been at some time a patient?

"My name is Pearson," he said to me, taking a stool next to mine. "I believe you are the doctor to the Fanshawes. I am their solicitor."

"Of course, and I remember now that I last saw you when you came to Dormont Park after Mrs Fanshawe's funeral to read her will."

"Yes," he said, looking now rather strained. "That's the trouble. I read the wrong will."

"What?" I believe I actually blushed.

"Yes." Mr Pearson continued, "another one has turned up. My brother was in France when the good lady died. I hadn't realized the will I brought was not the last. The one I read was dated January, 1944. But there was another from 1945."

So whatever it was, I realized, it was still earlier than the one I had burned. That copy would still have been the true one. Whatever Mr Pearson might have to tell me, it would not undo what I had done, or make my action unimportant.

"It'll almost certainly be contested," he said. "But I'm afraid it will hold."

"Why should there be a contest?"

"Everything goes out of the family."

"To whom?"

"To that librarian at the house—Mr Chambers. The whole estate, every penny. My brother told her she was wrong to do it. But you probably know how pig-headed she was."

"Were there," I asked, "no other beneficiaries?"

I don't know whether I gave anything away by the way I spoke, but probably Mr Pearson was too preoccupied with his own blunder to have noticed.

"Odds and ends. Dozens. Trivial bequests."

I remembered that I had expected that of her, at any rate.

"Oh, there was even something for you, Dr Mason, though I suppose I ought not to tell it to you like this."

"We're professional men," I said, as if that made all the difference.

"Then you might as well know," he said. "It was a picture. A Raeburn—a portrait of the second Baron." ###

Continued from page 118

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Slag for Your Supper

Continued from page 134

he may freely move in and out of gambling houses and brothels never reporting their existence. He regards it as a proper division of labor to leave bookmakers and prostitutes to the vice-squad men. One high-ranking federal law enforcement official told me, "If I were a police chief in a small city, I'd always allow a little gambling or prostitution—just so I could have a few informers always on tap." An implied threat to withdraw police tolerance is often enough to make a stool pigeon out of the operator of an illegal joint.

An equally standard technique is the unofficial "trade" between the police and a criminal caught in some dereliction. Consider the recent case of Morris Lipsius, a pint-sized ex-convict whose bravado in jail won him the nickname of "Kayo." Lipsius had spent most of his adult life in crime. When in his thirties he determined to go straight. He pinned his hopes on a literary effort he and another con were engaged in—a Dictionary of American Underworld Lingo. The book was published after Kayo left prison, but its sales were disappointing. Next Kayo tried running a small candy store on New York's East Side. It failed. In desperation he fell into his old habits. By December, 1950 the Treasury men had a firm grip on him: he had been caught trafficking in bootleg alcohol. He was offered a way out: he could square himself by helping the government trap Waxey Gordon. Kayo agreed. It was the only way to stay out of jail.

He met Gordon by hanging around his favorite East Side joints. After seven months of cultivating his friendship, Kayo started to buy narcotics from him—the money being supplied by the Narcotics Bureau, which has a fund of $250,000 a year for such buys. After the third delivery Waxey was carted off to jail and

"It was sort of circumstantial evidence—they found the 35 grand in my garage"

Continued on page 212

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Sing for Your Supper

Continued from page 211

Kavo Lipous went into hiding.

Sometimes nothing more than a petty infraction is enough to trap a man into becoming an informer. The police in a West-Coast city received a tip that a certain ex-con working as a truckman had information on an automobile-theft ring. One day the cops swooped down on the truck terminal—ostensibly looking for some goods that had been hijacked—and selected eight men for questioning. As a blind a detective questioned each of the men separately for a half hour. When the ex-con's turn came the detective pointed out that his parole had six more years to run and that he had been guilty of certain technical violations of the parole provisions—enough to send him back to jail. The man was shaken. "What can I do for you?" he asked desperately. Whereupon his interrogator suggested that he tell all that he knew about the local gang of car thieves. He reluctantly agreed. But the cops were not finished with him. A week later the detective was back with some questions about dope pushers; the next week about jewelry fences. At any show of resistance, the threat of the parole violation would be held over his head. "He became the best stool pigeon I ever had," the detective recalled. "At first getting details was like pulling teeth. After a while, he took a positive delight in his own cleverness—in showing me how much information he could pick up without tipping his hand."

A cardinal rule in developing informers is that the relationship is always a personal one between cop and crook. No one else is to know his identity—indeed, the detective will often not even tell his superior. By law he does not have to reveal the informer's name in court. The informer seldom comes to police headquarters. In some cases he does not even phone in, fearing that the underworld has its own pipelines in corrupt departments. When a detective acts on a tip he often moves in a circuitous way. For example, if some contraband has been "fingered" by an informer, the cops may not go directly to its location. Instead they may send a "building inspector" around to check the wiring. The "inspector" will then poke around several apartments until he stumbles upon the object he is looking for. In this way, the culprit never suspects that he has been betrayed.

These precautions insure the survival of most informers. Bruce Bielaski, the head of the investigation department of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, has been dealing with scores of informers during the last 22 years—and has never lost a man. Indeed, one tipster was on his payroll for nineteen years without ever being detected. Occasionally, it is true, an informer is clobbered over the head or dumped in the bay—but generally after he has disobeyed orders to protect himself.

These are real hazards, of course, but despite them informers can always be found. Their motives are almost as varied as the individuals but there are a few constants. One of them is money. This fact has long been recognized by Congress, which provides all the federal investigation agencies with funds to buy information. The Secret Service has an annual appropriation of $15,000, the F.B.I. has $70,000 for cases of kidnaping, extortion and bank robbery alone, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has a $300,000 kitty. Many local police departments have similar "confidential" funds. The consequence is that a few informers in every city are able to eke out a living by selling tips to a variety of agencies including insurance companies.

"Quit shoving—I got eggs in here"

The Customs Service has perhaps the most generous system. Informers can elect either to be paid on a spot-cash basis (anywhere from $10 up) or they can claim a reward of 25 per cent of what the government realizes in a smuggling case by seizure of the merchandise and a fine up to double its value. The limit on such bounties is $50,000, a sum paid out twice in 1952. Virtually every sizable smuggling seizure derives from an informer's tip. This is one of the few areas of detective work, as is income fraud, where the noncriminal informer has ample scope for activity. Customs receives a regular stream of information from jewel merchants in Paris, Brussels, Antwerp and Amsterdam. In many establishments, whenever an American makes a large purchase it is standard practice to tip off Customs—on the chance the customer may neglect to declare the item.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue also pays informers gener-

Continued on page 214

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Sing for Your Supper

Continued from page 213

ously—up to ten per cent of what the Treasury recovers from a defrauding taxpayer. And there is no limit to the reward. One of the biggest killings was made by an accountant who had received several memoranda from his employers as to methods of illegally escaping taxes. Instead of putting the suggestions into effect he resigned his post. But he saved the memoranda. His successor had fewer scruples and a year or two later it became apparent the company was effecting tremendous tax savings. The ex-employee mailed the memoranda to the government. They turned out to be a complete blueprint of the firm's intricate deceptions.

The informer died before he could receive his reward, leaving his claim as the only item in his estate. His widow collected $75,000.

Another citizen just stumbled into a big tax-fraud case. He was the prospective buyer of a toy factory. Going over the company's figures with the owner it struck him that the margin of profit was too small for the large volume of business. "Don't worry about it," the owner said. "Those are the profit figures for the government. We have another set of books for ourselves." The prospective buyer said he would have to consult with his partner. Next week he returned with a revenue agent masquerading as the partner. The owner proudly showed them his dual bookkeeping—and the case against him was sewed up.

There are of course any number of odd motives for informing. One Alcohol Tax Unit agent in Virginia had a man who would frequently tip him off to big shipments of moonshine. The agent confiscated dozens of cars and thousands of gallons of bootleg—but he could never figure out the informer's motive. Until one day the tipster asked a favor. "Captain Jimmy, when you shoot up them tin cans would you please aim a little higher?" The agent was in the habit, when confiscating several hundred gallons of moonshine, of taking one five-gallon tin as evidence, lining the others up on the road and perforating them with his .45. The informer would then come by and drain the liquor remaining in the bottoms of the cans. Out of 200 gallons of moonshine, he might collect 20, which he would then sell to local gin mills. But the agent refused to shoot higher and the odd partnership came to an end.

Whatever his motive the informer is invaluable. "Lacking good information," a veteran detective told me, "you're like a blind man trying to catch a fly ball." #

Continued from page 134

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Moulin Rouge

Continued from page 100

actors, actresses and agents called me from all over.

Our final choice for the leading roles were Ferrer as Lautrec (and Lautrec's father), Colette Marchand, the talented French ballet dancer, as Marie Charlet, the prostitute; Suzanne Flon, a French actress, as Myriamme, the mannequin Lautrec loved; Zsa Zsa Gabor as Jane Avril and Claude Nollier as Lautrec's mother.

We had to shoot a great deal of the film at night and we kept a lot of Parisians awake. When we started filming, *Figaro*, one of the biggest newspapers in France, ran a cockeyed story to the effect that we would pay up to twenty thousand francs to anybody whose sleep we disturbed. Syndicates were formed and lawyers flooded the set and we got hundreds of letters from other neighborhoods begging me to shoot the film there. *Figaro* ran a retraction the next day but we're still getting letters from angry Parisians demanding their twenty thousand francs.

The Parisians never did accept the idea of our shooting at night. One woman stood out on her fire escape and every time the cameras started rolling she beat on the iron rails with a hammer, spoiling the scene. We didn't want to pay her to keep quiet because that would have set a highly expensive precedent. So one of the French production men went to a café down the street and gave a fortuneteller a thousand francs to tell the woman that by banging on the fire escape she was bringing herself bad luck. That did it.

Every night we shot we had hundreds of American tourists on the set. It was during the height of the tourist season and the top sights of the town were the Eiffel Tower, the Arch of Triumph, the Louvre and the set of *Moulin Rouge*. Once Milton Berle came on the set and Joe Ferrer and I, as a joke, told two gendarmes that Berle was a dangerous character and had to be removed at once.

The police moved in on him, lifted him bodily and carried him away. "John!" he screamed. "John! I know it's a gag—but tell these guys I've got a weak back."

We've tried many new ideas working on *Moulin Rouge*, but I think the most important is our new way of using color. Technicolor to me has always looked like beer ads, with everything coming out too clear. With the help of filters and some tricks I think we've made our color film look like a Lautrec painting. The idea has been to make *Moulin Rouge* look as though Lautrec directed it himself. If we've made it work I think we'll have given the cinema something more important than just another movie. #

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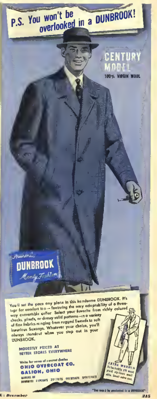
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Murder under the Mistletoe

Continued from page 125

in wails of exasperation and fatigue about fourteen hours later If only that were all there was to it, how easy it would be

But no We begin to stoke the Yule log the minute we have digested our Thanksgiving turkey No sooner have we got rid of the Pilgrim Fathers than we start to woo the reindeer And there is no escape You can scarcely buy a carton of milk that isn't bedecked with holly You have carols by Muzak with your lunch, and carols on the organ when you go to a department store Your children's conversation ceases to center on the adventures of the Lone Ranger, and becomes charged with insinuation, innuendo and near blackmail as they think of more and more ambitious and elaborate ways of approaching the problem of the electric train, the Meccano set, and the doll that not only weeps and eats but wets and has hair that can be curled Each day's newspaper reminds you that it is later than you think—"Only 18, 17, 16 . . . more shopping days to Christmas" You begin to feel it is Doomsday and not Christmas Day that is creeping up on you

Well maybe not up on *you*, but *I* seem to be temperamentally incapable of being forehanded about Christmas, and I resent the practical people who get their shopping done early and who know what they are looking for when they go to buy presents I darkly resent those fussbudgets who spy a nice sensible muffler in the middle of summer and recognize it as exactly the right Christmas present for Uncle Wilbur In summer they ought to be enjoying summer My idea of buying presents is to wait until the last minute when the true Christmas spirit is on me and I love everybody, even Uncle Wilbur, and indulge myself in an orgy of buying the irrational but pleasurable things it would never occur to people to buy for themselves I know this is neither practical nor economical, but there is nothing practical or economical about Christmas anyway, and it's fun

I feel much the same way about Christmas parties They should be spontaneous and relaxed, not carefully contrived and nervously administered Furthermore they should happen at Christmastime, not weeks before I dream that some year I will go to one glorious party on Christmas Eve and for the first time that year sing carols to my heart's content and toast my friends As it is, by the time I have got through our own office party and the parties of the companies who supply our company, and the parties at the houses of a lot of friends who are "doing up" their friends, there isn't a decent "God rest ye" left in my throat

Ideally the Christmas party should be the most amiable and least selfish gathering of the year, but let's, at the risk of disenchantment, take a look at one

Somewhere along the line the tradition of the Christmas party got swathed with a lot of rotund rosy-cheeked British squires with the gout, with red-nosed children riding on the tops of stagecoaches, their striped mufflers flying in the icy wind, with skinny men in tall hats and pince-nez singing carols under a gas lamp, and with boars' heads with apples in their mouths. The result has been that everybody's idea of the ideal Christmas is the "old-fashioned" Christmas, and this has led to some customs which in twentieth-century America are rather quaint

Let us gather at the house of a friend a week before Christmas. It makes little difference whether this friend lives in the country, the suburbs, or the city In his heart every man lives in the country at Christmastime. His landscape is white with snow, his trees are lighted with colored bulbs, and a gentle column of smoke rises from his chimney into a starlit sky He lives vicariously in a Christmas-card world and it doesn't matter to him that his Yule log is electric or his holly is painted cloth and wire; his heart is warm with sentiment and his mind is reaching to recapture the excitement of his childhood In his living room is a tree trimmed according to ancient custom (or possibly ancient custom tricked out by an interior decorator's notion of how you make a tree chic).

In the room is a disparate group of people such as one assembles only at this season—a combination of relatives who keep to themselves for eleven months of the year and pop up like Salvation Army Santas in December, friends and friends of friends, a miscellany of children and someone who has been invited because he (or more likely she) can, in a manner of speaking, play the piano for the carols that will become inevitable

There is a punch bowl filled with a concoction the host calls "wassail," not because he knows what wassail is any more than you do, but because at Christmastime you have to call liquor something other than liquor Whatever it is, it is as smooth and innocuous to the palate as it is unsettling to the equilibrium. If the host is deeply immersed in the spirit of Christmas the bowl may be filled with mulled wine and you may have the doubtful privilege of seeing your host plunge a hot poker into several gallons of Zinfandel spiced with cinnamon and cloves This scorched potion makes friends of friends and enemies of enemies and sentimentalists of everyone It makes adults appear more than usually ridiculous to children and furthermore,

Continued on page 218

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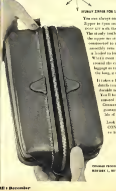

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Murder under the Mistletoe

Continued from page 217

it makes people want to sing.

Now there is nobody who likes to sing carols more than I do. I spent five years of my childhood being a choirboy at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, and I consider myself something of a connoisseur of carols. I also consider myself something of an expert on the kinds of people who sing them at Christmas parties, and I can tell quite a lot about a man's character from his approach to carol singing.

Let's assume that the wassail has done its work, that the children have settled down to pulling berries off the holly wreaths and that the lady at the piano is thumbing the hymnal. As she finally plays the first few bars of *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful* she is revealed as a pianist who can read the music for the right hand, but her left hand is, as they say, a dreamer.

This however daunts no one; the children are on their feet at once pressing close to the piano and calling out the names of the carols they want to sing, the hostess begins a fruitless search for the carol books she so carefully put away last year where she could easily find them. The men repair to the bowl for more wassail in order, as one of them is sure to say, "to wet the whistle." A few of the ladies join the singers and a few others imbed themselves still more deeply in the wassail with the plea that they can't keep a tune, and on urging make it emphatic that they're "tone deaf, darling but absolutely tone deaf."

As the singing gets under way character is revealed. Look around and you will see the smug look of the fellow who sings *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful* entirely in Latin though everybody else is having to struggle to remember the words in English. Listen to the three men in the back row who are joined in a lusty and booming bass, real part-singers at heart and so noisy that the children who are trying to carry the air become confused, overwhelmed, and finally stop singing altogether. Look, too at the lady to whom this gathering is the annual opportunity to display the fact that she once took singing lessons. Her bosom goes out, her chin comes in, that false smile of the trained singer wreathes her mouth and she enunciates every syllable in her shrill and cultivated soprano as though she wanted to be understood in the last row of the balcony. Before the singing has got past the first few carols she will have taken over the direction of the group determined that this is to be music not just fun. She conducts with both hands and before you can say Wenceslaus she has picked one of the bassos to sing the part of the sainted king and one of the children to be the page.

She should have known that this would be a mistake. The children who weren't chosen for the part take it as a signal to revert to their normally irreverent behavior, their cherubic expressions vanish and their voices begin to pipe "Good King Wences was a louse" or that other favorite of theirs "We three kings of Orient are/puffing on a big cigar/It was loaded, it exploded/covered us all with tar."

Beg pardon, Ma'am, but Mr. Featherstone has treed another guest"

I do not need to pursue farther the ramifications of carol singing. You know how the pattern develops, how the children fall to roughhousing, or, even worse, to singing all of the stanzas of all of the carols they have learned in school, carols so ancient and so traditional that they evidently died out sometime during the reign of Queen Elizabeth and have just been revived by progressive educators. You know the man who tries to stop the singing so that he can recite "Twas the night before . . ." or possibly like a man I know, "Gunga Din." You know how when the wassail bowl is empty the whiskey appears and disappears and the eyes grow dim and voices blurred. And you know the moment of parting when children hide in closets and parental tempers are strained to breaking.

This is the moment too often repeated when you wish you could cut off the heads of all the bores at all the parties you have been to in the name of Christmas and put apples in their mouths. If only Christmas were celebrated by one party and not dozens! If by the time the shopping days to Christmas had been whittled to nothing the appetite for presents and parents carols and children, and friendly intercourse were not jaded what a day it would be! What a moment of peace on earth and good will among men!

Gentlemen as I was saying. "I would like to enlist the support of all sensible men in a crusade. . . ." ###

Continued from page 124

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Mistress Paris

Continued from page 96

to devote ten of those days to transportation.

The airlines have filled Europe with short-stay tourists, traveling on budgets pared to the final penny. The impact of airlines on Paris is so great that during the rather recent Communist riots you were treated to an odd sight. You would see a Communist with a paintbrush writing "Go home Americans" in huge straggling letters on the sidewalks and walls. Right behind him would come another painter, but a Capitalist. Underneath "Go home Americans" he would paint "Via Pan American" or "Via TWA."

It is natural, then, that the No. 1 glamour trap of the world, in popular conception, has had to remodel its facilities, its fun and its prices to fit the temperaments and pocketbooks of a vast new clientele with broadly assorted tastes. This abject catering to a fresh crop of tourists has standardized or compartmented Paris but it has not decreased the gaiety. It has merely created six sets of prices according to how well you know the place, what you want, and how you wish to do it.

There is, for instance, a night club in Paris called "Le Crazy Horse," a Wild West *boîte* which caters to local devotees of the American cowboy, and also to transients who cannot disabuse their minds of televised epics involving Hopalong Cassidy. Le Crazy Horse is probably the only place in the world where a man in chaps, wearing a couple of holstered .44's and a 10-gallon hat, may enter, fully at ease, and say to the *garçon*: "*Dites, mon vieux, une soupçon de red-eye, parce que j'ai un grand soif fit to choke a Gila monster.*" The *garçon* will nod understandingly and answer: "*Alors, bien sûr, podner.*"

For the leisurely visitor with *beaucoup* bucks the night-club fare remains the same. You may drown yourself in gypsy fiddles and champagne, at New York prices, in a dozen of the plush sucker traps. Monseigneur still makes character with a lady. So do Ciro's and a flock of others, most of which serve champagne at the table without your ordering it. You pay for it, though. Too many fiddles oppress me after a while and I prefer wine or brandy or any kind of honest hooch, including *marc*, to champagne at those prices. This will not be a clue piece.

The same applies to the obvious bare-breast night clubs, such as Eve and Nouvelle Eve, not to mention the perennial torso palaces such as the fabled Folies Bergère, the Casino de Paris, Le Bal Tabarin, and the sweater stops in and around the Place Pigalle. One tires after a solid fare of nakedness, and longs for a few clothes to relieve the monotony. One tires especially when he pauses to reflect that the average brassiereless performer is quite possibly a very dull girl with a very stuffy husband and a child or so, and she is waving her glands about to provide baby with new bootees, and very likely will slap your face if you make a move at her. No woman in any circumstance owns the icy dignity of the French stripper who is not hustling on the side.

A thing that has always puzzled me is the male American fixation for job-lot nakedness in the presence of a thousand strangers. The female *poitrine* is quite a handsome piece of architecture, in its youthful firmness, but is as sexless as a roomful of naked statues when paraded coldly for the delectation of many. A day on the beach at Capri, say, when the Bikini bathing suit—which consists of two penwipers and a powder puff—came first into vogue, was mildly reminiscent of a stroll through the cold room of a butcher shop. There is very little naughtiness in the better bust emporiums of gay, wicked Paris. After five minutes a bust is merely a bust, especially if it is somebody else's property.

This spate of personal preference does not seemingly apply to the majority of visiting firemen, however, who feel frustrated unless they have literally smothered in nudity. The best—and the worst—of these traps are stacked with gay blades from Columbus, Ohio, all feeling terribly wicked and loose in the moral department. They would get in more trouble at the local burlesque.

The logical outcrop of a night on the town used to be a glorious windup in one of the de luxe *maisons de joie*, where the nude show continued after a more sinister fashion, and the boys wound up for so many francs with the de luxe *poule* of their choice. Unfortunately lip-service morality came to call on La Belle France at the close of World War II and an ambitious lady politician caused all the pink-mirrored parlor-houses to be closed by law. They literally cut up the famous and luxurious cat houses into co-operative apartments for the workers, with the result that the rather stunned *petite bourgeoisie* found itself living in the former residences of joyous daughters named Fifi and Yvonne.

The dignity of prostitution was robbed from France, which had always accorded the prostitute a certain social esteem.

Prostitution has remained, and in spades, and without dignity or position in the community. Another busybody politician has recently tried to re-legalize the houses, and has been cried down in the state house. This is rather ironic, because the price of illicit

Continued on page 222

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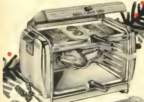

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Mistress Paris

Continued from page 221

love in Paris today has soared in the categories of ill health, danger, and inconvenience. The vicinity of the Madeleine is stiff with streetwalkers in the latish afternoon, and the Parisienne equivalent of the more vicious B-girl haunts the touristy traps in Montparnasse and St. Germain-des-Prés. They guzzle champagne on the sucker's bill for a share of the house-take, and eventually lead the chump to some shoddy little *Tout Confort* hotel or furnished room, there to feed him a slug of chloral and relieve him of his wallet. The toughest of all streets is La Rue St. Denis, where the Senegalese and North African troops go to play, where a false step into an alley buys you a boff on the skull and a naked awareness of stupidity if you wake up at all. Not even a native Parisian chances St. Denis afoot after dark unless he is drunk, mad or completely careless of the state of his health.

With the correct guide—generally a rat-faced type common to all back streets the world around—it is still possible to get yourself led through a series of back rooms to a final smoky cubicle full of depraved drabs, blue movies and whatever the hayshaker computes as worth the nausea. This is something on which I did no personal research, having lived through the water fronts of Antwerp, Hamburg and Havana as a tender youth, and entertaining no desire to re-steep myself in the more esoteric renditions of exhibition.

As one grows older and travels more he is obsessed with a desire to get away from the herd and take a look at what the locals have to put up with in the way of food, fun and entertainment. This means I did not stay at the Georges Cinq, which has become so completely Hollywood-Toots Shor-Stork Club-Mocambo that you might as well stay home apart from the Martini that Rudolph the barman spins at you. When I go to Paris I like to see Frenchmen, unlike the dress-designing lady I know who reported that she had taken a boat trip down the Seine around the Ile St. Louis. "And do you know," she said, "the banks were full of Frenchmen fishing!"

I lost her friendship with a short query as to whether she was maybe expecting Australian bushmen.

The old Crillon was my sentimental home in Paris, for the simple reason that the first time I ever hit the lovely city the conditions were rather special.

It was in 1947 and travel was rather rugged in Europe. I came in from Italy hot, dirty, weary and disgusted, and tackled the Crillon with thirteen pieces of baggage and a two-day beard, expecting the worst, at one in the morning.

Miraculously, I was expected. The concierge was all politeness. He hustled me up to the room, which turned out to be a suite worthy of Marie Antoinette, all gold and red plush and white. There was a bottle of champagne, a bottle of cognac and a bowl of fruit on the table in front of the *chaise longue* in the ornate living room. The living room fronted on the square interior court of the Crillon, and as the waiter raised the windows and opened the curtains, a lovely lady began disrobing across the way. It all seemed too perfect a way to meet Paris for the first time, and I permitted myself a touch of theatrics. I bowed in the general direction of the Place de la Concorde and said with great dignity, "*Monsieur Lafayette, nous sommes arrivés.*"

This time the Crillon was too full of visiting rich people to handle my brief business, and I wound up across the Seine in an ancient mausoleum called Le Palais d'Orsay. It was part railroad station, seriously, and had not met many tourists socially, in that the prices were low and the service immediate if you spoke French at all. The corridors, I swear, were just under a mile long and there was a dining room which gave you the hard horrors, since you might easily have stabled a dirigible in it. I love the Palais d'Orsay dearly, but it is not the kind of pub a man feels snug in unless he feels crowded in a hangar.

But it is snugger than the Ritz bar, in which—as at Charing Cross Station and the docks in Singapore—you have only to wait long enough for everybody you know to turn up, and it is snugger than the other hostels which specialize in the tourist. It is possible at a given hour of the day in Paris to believe that all the Frenchmen have emigrated elsewhere, turning the entire city over to the visitors. Along these lines you see scads of Germans overrunning the city these days. Paris has ever been the German's spiritual home, and the close-cropped blond men and the flaxen women seem not a little puzzled and hurt that the Parisian does not greet the pilgrimaging Teuton with a double smack on the cheek and a hearty hug. The truth of the matter is that whilst the German loves the Frenchman, the Frenchman hates the German's tripe. And mostly always has.

Of all the tourists which afflict the broad expanses of Paris, I think the Englishman is the most wistful, the least adjusted. The trouble with the Englishman abroad is that he looks, acts and feels so awfully terribly bloody *English*. He looks ruffled and slightly indignant, affronted by the fact that he does not speak the language, and distressed by

Continued on page 224

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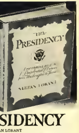
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Mistress Paris

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the absence of vegetable marrow and a cut off the joint undone by handwritten menus and a prevalence of sauces. He looks lost and lonely, and terribly tweedy and awfully distressed by prices for his traveling budget is small. He seems to be searching for Kensington in the midst of Montmartre and while he comes to Paris principally to eat he looks as if he resents it. It is possibly true that nobody fits Paris but Frenchmen American Negroes and the few cosmopolites who are able to take on the coloration of the places in which they dwell. The rest seem to have come there expressly to buy postcards on which they write their own version of "Having a wonderful time."

Concerning night life, you might break down Parisian opportunity into half-a-dozen categories. These would include the frank swank joints the obvious sucker deadfalls the teddibly chic the teddibly quaint the teddibly bizarre the out-and-out joints and *les specialités du quartier* corresponding to our own localization of special places for special residents. There are naturally places where the pansies gather the places which the darker races fancy and the neighborhood saloons. There are places which are jazz mad because *le jazz hot* is going great guns now. There are black-and-whites and black-and-tans and places where the long-haired poets with dirty necks and small talent foregather to write epics to the basic desire of being dead dramatically. Every third cellar has a jive band the others fancy fiddles. I looked at three, after discarding the more obvious, and felt pretty well balanced.

One of the charms of Paris for me is to sit in a place which lends itself to mood without smothering you in it which is friendly enough to the foreign but is not off limits to the native because of the foreigners presence. If I am having three or six nightcaps after a good dinner and some more frenzied entertainment elsewhere I would just as lief stop off at the Calvados around the corner from the Georges V, step down into a semi-cellar that is not murky and listen to some quiet piano sulnused up by characters. The man sits there and plays the piano like in the movie *Casablanca*. You sit there and consume a *fine à l'eau* or what you will and a feeling of peace sneaks over you. You do not have to lower your voice out of deference to the piano or raise it to compete with the piano. It is popular with residents French and otherwise and does not seem to be afflicted with too many obvious nationals of any place after one in the morning. There must be an approximation of the Calvados for every square block of every good city everywhere where the furniture is solid and the suits do not take over. A good saloon is a good saloon is a good saloon, as Gertrude Stein undoubtedly mentioned to Alice Toklas.

The most exciting night club I remember since I was a brash boy in the old and wicked prewar Germany is a little sweaty odor-filled *boîte* at 53 rue de la Harpe in the Latin Quarter called La Rose Rouge which is a stylized and arty operation devoted to the lineal descendants of all the long-hair cults involving terribly clever entertainment. The entertainment at my Rose Rouge ain't mannered, but it kept a guy who has been on the wagon for six whole years fairly well entranced for two hours and he sat up another two hours talking about it. This is endorsement enough in my book.

You walk into this Rose Rouge and expect exactly nothing. You will see some excellently tailored plum-black Senegalese bucks dancing with some excessively blonde dames, who have obviously come there to be danced with by the excellently tailored plum-black Senegalese dandies. They dance extremely well and very politely, and will visit your table to inquire if Madame wishes to dance. This of course is strictly up to Madame and nobody makes a point of it one way or the other. Nor is a racket involved, unless it be a later deal of Madame's own making.

At midnight *l'attraction* comes on, involving a *café au lait* creole gal out of Martinique who sings a very pleasant song, strums a very pleasant guitar and, still standing works over a piano in a casual way to curl your hair slightly. You are still unprepared for the main event.

While the Martinique gal has been working on your relaxing muscles, all the plum-colored six-foot bucks from Senegal have been out in the back room taking off their extremely-well-tailoreds and slipping into more primitive gear, involving not much in the way of coverage. Off goes the Martinique gal the lights do some tricks and you are suddenly hurled into a jungle that makes your hair stiffen at the nape. The well-tailored dancing boys revert to type and for one solid hour you are five thousand years away from civilization. I have been listening to drums since I first went to Cuba and later to the middle of uncivilized Tanganyika, drums like these I have not heard and dances like these I have not seen. It is not fancy stuff, it is pure uncluttered savagery helped along with a clever lighting system. Show me any man who can sit through an hour of it and still be blasé and we will bury him in the morning. This is the only performance of anything I ever

Continued on page 226

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Mistress Paris

Continued from page 225

attended two nights in a row, and I left it the second evening feeling exactly as if I had either rassled a bear or seen Manolo González kill six bulls the way he handled one last winter in Mexico City. This feeling was shared by my enforcedly sober friend and all the non-sober members of the party.

I think that the basic excitement would have been there if the dances had occurred before a flickering fire in Senegal. But it was enriched, tripled by the sudden shedding of civilized artifice, by a reversion to type which makes you wonder if man is very far removed from the raw emotions of his ancestors. It makes you wonder if all the planned improvement of the world has a chance when a flock of flat drums, round drums, square drums and the sheen of fire on leaping bodies can suddenly make you forget that the Communists are demonstrating again tomorrow and Mrs. Roosevelt is teaching the Virginia reel to Indian aboriginals in the name of one world.

You walk out of Rose Rouge and take a deep breath of clean night air with the drums still beating in your blood and your nostrils still full of sweat and you head for the superchic side of town, a very chichi spot just off the Champs Elysées. It isn't touristy except in a high-toned café-society way, and international café society at that. Here are two fine orchestras with prices to match.

Here I found a dewy, wispy blond thing in tulle dancing a perfect rumba with the finest piece of tailored suiting you have seen with as neat a neck shave. The wispy blond was looking adoringly at the fine piece of neck-shaved tailoring and the rumba made you curse Arthur Murray, it was that good. And the only thing wrong was that below the finely cut jacket and the handmade silk shirt and the immaculate neck shave was a rather prim skirt. Somehow I do not mind girls dancing together when both are wearing blue jeans. But when the one side puts on a dinner jacket and sends flowers, and the other side gets herself done up in her best beau-catching frock to go on the town at El Marocco prices, I suddenly come down with that old male ego and wonder if, just for laughs, it wouldn't be fun to take the tulle dame away from the dinner-jacket dame. Just for laughs, except you are fighting mad for a minute that a world can become so suavely sophisticate that a gross violation of he-she is sanctified by a dinner coat on a dame. This is the country boy talking, I suppose, but I never got used to it enough to like it. There is no sweat odor in this place but it seemed cleaner in La Rose Rouge. The leaping sword-clashing duel between savages seemed much more to the point than the mannered rumba between dinner-jacket and tulle.

But one dines and plays according to his tastes in Paris, which is the reason people have been having their own kind of fun in it for a bit better than two thousand years. There are some folks who feel they must dine at La Tour d'Argent or Maxim's or Café de Paris and spend a small fortune for a fine meal, but not having a small fortune and recognizing the impossibility of eating badly in Paris, I am apt to sneak off to something less grand, with no telephone.

"Then you really mean my inheriting a fortune won't come between us, Mr. De Castro?"

I got stuck into a new one this trip, a tiny little place called Le Vieux Paris just around the corner from the old Existentialist hangouts in St. Germain-des-Prés. Why they call it the Old Paris I couldn't say, since it is a Levantine place and serves very cheaply wonderful Middle Eastern food involving skewered lamb shashliks and Syrian hors d'oeuvres and things stuffed in rose petals and grape leaves. The food was excellent, the wine sound and cheap. It looked like a clean boardinghouse with people sitting at close-ranked tables. The proprietor seemed to be the chef. Madame took a turn at the tables.

It was not that the food was excellent, the service excellent, and the prices modest—not that so much as that the management seemed sincerely and humbly pleased to have you aboard, to serve you well. The management seemed uninterested in a heavy tip. The management was interested in food and in the happiness of its clients. The management wept when suddenly the clients had reason to become unhappy, as soon occurred.

There was a fine and happy drunk next to us who offered to bet champagne for the house against a cigarette that nobody could guess his nationality. This was a nice man who spoke so many languages well that we fouled

Continued on page 228

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Mistress Paris

Continued from page 227

out on twenty guesses before he admitted to being a Persian. He bought wine anyhow. He then bought flowers for all the ladies. He was a happy man, withal a little drunk. He troubled no one and it sharpened the appetite to see a man who was so full of fun. Even the big Alsatian dog which was gravely inhibiting the party curled back his lips and laughed.

The little man could not contain his good will and he moved it around the room to the general delight of all but one big tall dark man, a South American, I think, to judge from the way he spoke Spanish. Suddenly the big tall Spanishy man spoke to the happy man.

"You're no Persian," he said. "You're a Jew." Then he hit the little man on the head with the flat of his hand.

I think the tall man was considerably near to death at that time but for the good offices of Madame and her guests who separated the melee as best they could and hustled the participants off in opposite directions. Madame then spent the next ten minutes, involving the service of coffee and cake, in semi-tearful apology that such a barbarousness could have occurred to lessen the delight of her happy home. This is why I do not generally dine at Le Tour d'Argent. There isn't enough action in the common-folks sense even if they do light up the Cathedral to go with the *crêpes Suzette*.

There is no denying that if you wish to eat anything that lived in water before it hit the pot, the Méditerranée at No. 2 Place de l'Odéon is not in the habit of sending you away hungry or poor, either. This is another [illegible] example of a place where Monsieur exacts a sufficient charge for superb cuisine without making it obvious that an exchange of currency is the principal ingredient to the lobsters *aux aromates*. There is no real point to a catalogue of restaurants in France except that I also kind of love the Restaurante L'Escure which has been under the firm hands of the same couple for a quarter century which owns no phone and which sees nothing wrong with serving a fine if crowded lunch for five-hundred francs when the dicky spots are getting up to five thousand.

Doughwise Paris today seems about like New York. You can blow a wad if you try, or even if you don't. But you can operate wonderfully well in Paris on a small outlay if you duck the itching-palm places and follow the Frenchman who is still the thriftiest living mortal in his basic needs. You can for instance pay a thousand bucks in Paris for a Balenciaga frock that will cost you $300 in Madrid and you can frighten the birds with a tab in the gaudier tourist hotels. If you must drink scotch whisky you will pay stout prices for the privilege. If you will drink the house cognac, and excellent it is, you will find yourself loaded for practically free. You can eat for a buck, or you can eat for fifty bucks depending on the state of your poke and your arrogance. The town is not tip crazy since mostly they drop twelve per cent into the bill, but in places where dough-throwing Yanks have spoiled them you reap the same frown that you collect in the States when you don't anoint the outstretched paw with the only oil that soothes internationally.

One aspect of Paris I should like to pursue is dogs. Paris has literally gone to them. As an old dog man I never saw so many dogs eating well in so many fine restaurants, and a dame without a dog is practically as naked as one of the babes in the bistros. All I can conclude is that Parisians have finally decided that dogs are nicer than people. Certainly they behave better. No Parisian dog I met socially would dream of leaving its vigil at its mistress' side. They obey orders. They do not bark. They do not snuffle strangers. They serve as a model for international behavior that the United Nations might very well inspect.

And the dogs are truly treasured. A lady I know tells me that when you call a doctor to check on some recurring *malaise de famille* he never asks if you have taken little Pierre's temperature. But when you summon the vet to check on Frou-Frou's distemper, he demands that you take the animal's temperature thrice daily. This is disgusting to humans but strangely comforting to dogs.

For humans as well as dogs there is a wonderful thing about Paris involving trees. Washington, D.C. and Rome are the only other cities I know which make one as conscious of trees as does Paris. Paris with trees is one city, soft and shimmering to the eye; without trees in winter it suddenly translates into too much architecture, too much statuary, too much marble and stone and boulevard. When the chestnuts and planes are in business there is no such thing as an ugly *quartier* in Paris. It is the single city that seems to be all country.

The traffic is madder than ever. There must be a Citroën runabout for every dog in Paris, and since there are two dogs for every human, that is a mess of traffic. Around five in the afternoon occurs a general impasse with a solid mass of jammed autos on the Champs Elysées and the side streets contributing another pattern in the form of an iron cross. There is only one thing to do if you are in the middle. You get out of your car and stroll away for an apéritif trusting a miracle-working gendarme will unscramble the jam. He always does.

The big fashion shows still go on, but the American woman has smartened up a touch, and is showing signs of stubbornness to the old lure of the Parisian *haute couture*. Prices for the more popular designers are outlandish and a single fluffy frock can cripple a couple of thousand bucks, so recently Madame has been taking a spin over to Madrid or Rome where she can shop as smartly for a fifth of the cost. But not even beating the lady with a stick will keep her out of the perfume shops and the glove stores. The sanest female goes completely mad when confronted by a pair of French gloves, and even those dames who use simple soap at home return to America loaded with gallons of *[illegible]* or *Femme* or whatever is the going mode in expensive stenches.

They will possibly burn me in effigy for the statement that Parisian women are not as a mass so overly handsome bunch of females, but I swear I think that Paris owns the plainest women in the world. The ultra-chic ones are so stinking chic that you lose all sight of the woman and find yourself regarding a broomstick in costume. The famed Paris models are a skinny set of starved clotheshorses, starved purposefully so as not to divert attention from the gown. The shopgirls are plain and even the street ladies have a fiercely determined air of practicality about them. You can sit for two hours at a sidewalk café without seeing anything worth whistling at.

I have always thought that the Frenchman was the least natively gay of all Europeans and that all the oolala naughtiness was simply an act that the tourist-snatchers thought up. The Frenchman talks a lot, and waves his hands a lot but it is seldom that he is joking. He is generally making a serious point, probably having to do with money. An [illegible] is a spendthrift alongside the Frenchman.

But for beauty, enduring beauty, and an electric feel of excitement you still cannot match Paris. No amount of foreigners cluttering up the boulevards and jamming the shops and overcrowding the hotels can shake the foreigner's firm belief that something mighty romantic is going to happen to him before sunup.

The town is so clean, so pure in design, that just looking at it on a moonlight night is more giddying than a quart of champagne. Lena Horne, the American singer, summed it rather well one time when she said: "Man, when I dug that Place de la Concorde on a moonlight night, I just sat right down and cried."

I believe I understand why the Germans didn't tear it up before they took off in the last war. Not even a Nazi would have had the heart to spoil a perfection of two thousand years.

Because Paris does not belong to its native citizens. Paris is the symbolic earthly paradise, the recreational Mecca for the world. #

Continued from page 95

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New York: Santa's Home Town

Continued from page 180

ley, Vassar, Bryn Mawr, Sarah Lawrence and Bennington in a whirl of breakfast dates, luncheons, tea dances, cocktails, shows, dinner dances, late suppers and early-morning hansom rides through Central Park which are possible only when you are twenty and spending your Christmas holidays in New York. The town seems full of them at the Pierre, at the Plaza and in a thousand different restaurants, dancing places, beer gardens and bars all over midtown and the Village.

Christmas merely adds to the lures that drew thirteen million visitors to New York every year and make it the most important tourist city on earth. New York is the place where you can get anything, where you can buy most of the world's goods at prices comparable to those you'd pay in the countries of their origin, where you can eat and drink your way around the world without ever leaving one small island.

On Mott or Pell Streets, at places like the Rice Bowl, you'll enjoy Cantonese dishes which—things being what they are—you're unlikely to taste in China for the next few years. All over the lower East Side, and in midtown, too, are restaurants serving Jewish meals the like of which haven't been seen in Israel since the days of Judas Maccabaeus. New York probably has more fine French restaurants than any other city in the world except Paris, and it has far more good Neapolitan pizza joints than you'll find in Naples.

If you want to go off-trail in your dining, you can eat sukiyaki and drink sake at Miyako, at 20 West 56th Street; try pilaff and shish kebab at the Golden Horn, at 31 West 51st Street; make with the tortillas, enchiladas and tacos at the Xochitl, at 146 West 46th Street; or start off with a Batida cocktail and gobble Brazilian specialties at Semon's at 216 East 58th.

Here are some other geographical suggestions:

- Austrian—Hapsburg House, 313 East 55th Street
- Belgian—Brussels, 115 East 54th Street
- Czech—Sokol, 424 East 71st Street
- Dutch—Holland House Taverne, 10 Rockefeller Plaza
- Finnish—Finland House, 39 East 50th Street
- German—Lüchow's, 110 East 14th Street
- Hungarian—Hungarian Garden, 1528 Second Avenue
- Indian—Pierre Grill, Fifth Avenue at 61st Street
- Roumanian—Greenberg's Roumanian Restaurant, 286 Broome Street
- Russian—Russian Bear, Lexington Avenue at 54th Street
- Spanish—El Chico, 80 Grove Street
- Swedish—Swedish Rathskeller, 3rd Avenue at 52nd Street
- Swiss—Swiss Café, 348 West 46th Street
- Syrian—Mecca, 6 East 30th Street

There are so many French and Italian restaurants in New York that a "best bet" listing would be almost meaningless—but two of my favorites are the Café Chambord, at 3rd Avenue and 49th Street, for fine French food, and the Villa Penza, at 198 Grand Street on the lower East Side, for Italian.

These names are just a sampling since New York's more than twelve thousand restaurants serve the specialties of thirty-seven different countries. Not that you have to go on a gastronomic world tour to get a good meal in New York. Those twelve thousand eating places include everything from lunchrooms and hamburger havens to some of the most celebrated restaurants in the world. And if you want to stick to American cooking, you'll find steaks and roast beef in New York that will match anything you can get in Chicago or Kansas City, and sea food as fresh and as well-prepared as Boston's, San Francisco's or New Orleans'.

Despite its reputation for high prices, New York offers you fun on less money than almost any other place on earth. For water-borne sight-seeing, the Staten Island ferry, with a 50-minute round trip at a fare of ten cents, is the finest tourist bargain you'll find anywhere. If you take kindly to sight-seeing as such, you'll enjoy visits to the top of the Empire State Building and the RCA Building in Rockefeller Center, the boat ride out to the Statue of Liberty, and even the trip on one of New York's famous sight-seeing busses, known locally as rubberneck wagons. Be sure to wander over to First Avenue and 42nd Street to look over the new United Nations buildings. (You can obtain tickets to open meetings by phoning the day before.)

The favorite junkets of New Yorkers out to see their own city are a ride through Central Park in one of the carriages you can hire at a stand in the Plaza at Fifth Avenue and Fifty-ninth Street, and a trip on the second story of a double-decker bus up Riverside Drive.

You'll see New Yorkers gawking at the Goyas in the Prado Museum in Madrid and the Mona Lisa in the Louvre, and they'll be prowling around the endless corridors of the British Museum, the art galleries of Florence and the castles and museums of every other country in western Europe—but on their return home many of these world travelers will ignore the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Natural History, The Cloisters, Frick Collection, Hispanic Society of America collection, Brooklyn Museum and Whitney Museum of American Art, all of which have treasures that rival anything on exhibit abroad. The Hayden Planetarium is well worth a visit any time of the year, and when your wallet loses its bulge you might like to take a look at the Chase National Bank Museum of Moneys of the World.

And New York's music season is as brilliant as that of Rome, Paris, London or any other European capital. There's sure to be a recital or concert at Carnegie Hall and Town Hall at any time during the fall, winter and spring. The Metropolitan Opera Association, through its broadcasts and extended tours, belongs to the nation, but New York has its own personal opera and ballet companies at the City Center on West 55th Street.

The theatrical season is at its gayest in the winter months. Tickets for top offerings are hard to get on a moment's notice, so do your buying early.

You can spend a week in New York being entertained by top show-business names, all for free, by joining television and radio studio audiences—and the stations will be glad to have you. For tickets, write to the Guest Relations Department, National Broadcasting Company, Columbia Broadcasting System, Mutual Broadcasting System, American Broadcasting Company, or Du Mont Television Network, all in New York City. Many of the legitimate theatres throughout the city have been taken over by the studios for television productions, and the free tickets are on a first-come best-seats basis.

New York and Paris are the world's greatest cities for walking, musing and moseying. If you're ever bored in New York it's because you're unimaginative or unadventurous, or because you have no money and fallen arches. It's a town that literally never shuts up shop, and you can find something to do at any hour of the day or night.

During one twenty-four-hour period you can inspect a yak at Central Park or Bronx Zoo, examine the finest contemporary paintings and sculpture in Fifty-seventh Street art galleries, sit in at Night Court, take in a hockey match, basketball game, track meet, boxing or wrestling match, horse show, rodeo, ice show or circus at Madison Square Garden (something's scheduled for every night, except Christmas Eve, from September through May), eyeball celebrities at Sardi's, Toots Shor's, Twenty One, the Stork, Lindy's, Bleeck's or the Colony, ride a horse through Central Park, go deep-sea fishing off Long Island, visit a departing ocean liner, ice-skate right in the middle of Radio City or roller-skate at a rink just off midtown Broadway.

As the songwriter said, "New York, New York, it's a hell of a town!"—for New Yorkers and visitors both, at Christmastime and all through the year. ###

(For a special Esquire guide to New York Town, turn to Going Places with Esquire on page 75.)

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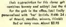

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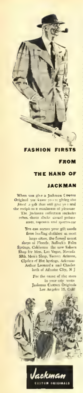
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CUSTOM ORIGINALS

Loving Cups Around the World

Continued from page 88

to toast the holiday of holidays

Schuylkill Punch, U. S. A.

Here in the United States there is no more pleasant punch than the one brewed by the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill, a curious and dignified group of Pennsylvania amateur cooks and fishermen, a private club that has flourished gracefully and quietly since 1732.

To make the justly famed Schuylkill punch, you will need the following ingredients (make it up well ahead of your party, since it requires quite a long blending period—and be sure that you make enough):

One quart of water
¾ pound loaf sugar
One pint of lemon juice
A fifth of fine old cognac
Two bottles of elderly, mellow rum
One cup of peach brandy
One block of ice

Add the sugar to the lemon juice and stir until it is all dissolved. Then add the other ingredients, and stir gently to blend. Let the mixture stand for at least six hours.

Two hours before you're ready to serve the punch, put a block of ice in the punch bowl and pour the liquid over it. After two hours stir well, ladle out the punch, and offer your toast!

Christmas Punch, Caribé

Señores, the Christmas punch of the Caribbean is a delightful drink, easy to prepare and as colorful as a Caribbean Christmas.

For twenty people you will need the following (this too takes a few hours to prepare, so be sure you will have enough):

One-half of a pineapple, peeled and sliced
One cup of lemon juice
Two cups of pineapple juice
One and a half bottles of an elderly rum

Place the ingredients in a large bowl and chill for two hours in the refrigerator.

Then place a block of ice in your punch bowl, pour in the mixture and add two quarts of sparkling water, and you're ready for the first guest.

As a fillip, add one pint of strawberries, sliced thin.

Eggnog, Canada

A stalwart Canadian will fix his eggnog this way:

He'll take ten eggs and separate them.

He'll put the yolks in a bowl and cream them with three-quarters of a cup of granulated sugar.

Next he'll add a pint or so of whiskey, a little at a time, stirring constantly.

When the whiskey is thoroughly blended with the sugar and egg yolks, he'll add a quart of milk and then a pint of heavy cream, stirring slowly and well after each addition until the whole is thoroughly mixed.

Then he'll fold in the egg whites, which have been beaten stiff, and top each serving with freshly grated nutmeg, and serve.

If whipped cream is used, spoons will be needed.

Glogg, Sweden

Here's how the Swedes make it:

They heat the following in a saucepan until it is piping hot:

One pint of claret
One pint of Aquavit
One-half pint of brandy
Three-quarters of a cup of sugar
One orange impaled with cloves and caraway seeds

Do not allow this mixture to come to a boil!

Just before they're ready to serve, they preheat the glasses (placing a silver spoon in each to prevent breaking).

Sometimes, when the drink is made with ceremony before the assembled guests, loaf sugar which has been soaked in the brandy is placed on a rack over the saucepan and lighted. It burns until it dissolves into the pan below!

Then to each glass they add a couple of unsalted almonds and several seedless raisins, pour in the hot mixture, and drink up!

Vino Brulè, Italy

Italy's favorite Christmas drink is wine, naturally.

It is made by heating two bottles of Barbera wine—heating, not boiling—with one-half of a grated nutmeg and eight cloves, which are enclosed in a cheesecloth bag.

Pour into a glass over slices of lemon and serve hot.

Champagne, France

In France—where else?—the people toast Christmas with the finest champagne, chilled to perfection and ceremoniously served. For them, and for others around the world, no mixture of any kind can equal the pleasure of bubbly at Christmas.

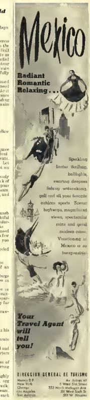
Scotch Whisky, Scotland

A robust people, the Scots, they drink the Yule toast in their native wine (sic), delivering a liberal portion of neat scotch (of course they will allow no ice to touch it) into a heavy glass shaped like a scotch thistle.

And the drink is as sincere as the toast that they give with it at Christmastime! Long may your chimney smoke!

Here, then, are the favorite toasts of seven great peoples. In them, you have a selection of traditional enjoyment that should take care of your toasting needs for seven Christmases to come. ###

Credits for the color photographs for Loving Cups Around the World, pages 88 and 89 (all in New York City): Caribé photo: All accessories, Fred Leighton. Canada photo: Vardi silver, Mosse linens, [illegible]. Sweden photo: Chafing dish, Cardel Ltd.; pitcher, [illegible] Specialties; candelabra, [illegible] and cups, Bonniers. Italy photo: Wine cask, Edwin Jay; candelabra, glasses, [illegible] House of Italian Handicrafts. France photo: All accessories, Georg Jensen. Scotland photo: Decanters, glasses, [illegible] Scottish Products; silver labels, tray, Plummer Ltd. United States photo: Lowestoft punch bowl, Ginsburg & Levy; candelabra, tray, cups and ladle, Plummer Ltd. (All liquor: Sherry Wine & Spirits Co.)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The Sound and the Fury

Continued from page 10

Sez You

After reading Marguerite Piazza's opinion of Mario Lanza in your October issue, I wondered just who she thinks she is. Granted she has a lovely voice, but I was somewhat riled to read that she felt she would not sing with him because he has sung "nowhere."

The only reason he has not sung in the great opera houses of the world is because he considers himself not yet ready. There are millions who disagree with him. Frankly, I should think she would consider herself lucky even to be asked to sing with the great Lanza.

V. BRONSON
New Braunfels, Texas

* * *

I fully consider Marguerite Piazza the worst kind of snob. She regards Mario Lanza a nobody unworthy of singing with her because he has not sung at the Met and other such places. Please leave off any further praise of this woman.

JANE BERETTA
Tucson, Ariz.

Home Builder

I have been noticing in recent issues material on building and designing residences and parts thereof. Naturally I am interested in these features. I believe that since the home workshop is a fixture in 11,000,000 American homes, there are other readers of Esquire who enjoy the material on how to dress up their homes.

M. T. BURKE
Decatur, Ala.

The Twain Shall Meet

When the September issue of Esquire arrived, my fraternity brothers and I looked to it (as we always do) to show us the correct dress for the coming school year. I am sorry to say we were disappointed. It is the consensus of opinion among us that rather than presenting proper dress at all schools, you have displayed clothing appropriate only for Eastern colleges. We doubt its validity for our own school, Northwestern, or for others like U.S.C. and Tennessee.

MARK STERN
Northwestern University
Evanston, Ill.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Having observed a number of the questioned items, such as grey flannel, sport plaids, tweed jackets and topcoats, Tattersall waistcoats, and round-collared shirts on the backs of undergraduates from Duke, North Carolina and Virginia in the South, and similar dress sported by Loyola of Los Angeles students, Esquire felt that these fashions, Eastern in origin, are now the basic items for schools around the nation.*

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THIS CHRISTMAS:
GRAB THE GOLD RING WITH Esquire's CAROUSEL OF GIFTS

Come down to the merry-go-round of colorful and exciting gift ideas that Santa ESKY has selected for Christmas 1952
You'll find them featured at the Esquire Gift Carousel in any of the outstanding stores listed to the right.
They're Esquire's own special suggestions — many of them gathered right from the pages of this issue.
Find the name of the store near your home look for Esquire's Christmas window . . and your "present" problems are over.

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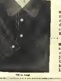

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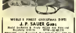

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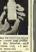

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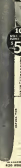

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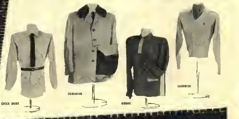

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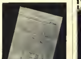

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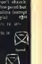

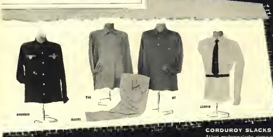

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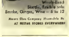

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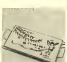

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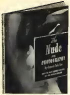

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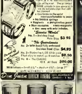
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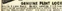

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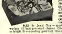

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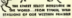

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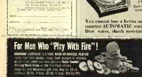

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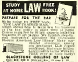

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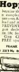

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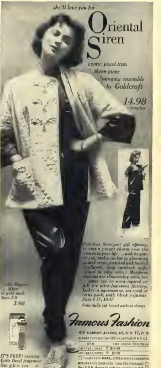

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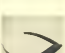

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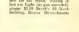
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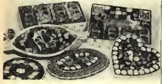
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$7.85 each

C.O.D. (plus fee) or send check or M. O. Specify small, medium or large size, and print design. State second choice. A. P. O. orders welcome. No foreign orders.

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(Give bust and hip measurements if possible)

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Use the KLIPETTE Hollis ROTATING SCISSORS

You can cause serious infection by pulling hair from nose. Ordinary scissors are also dangerous and impractical. There is no better way to remove hair from nose and ears than with KLIPETTE. Smooth gentle, safe, efficient. Rounded points can't cut or prick skin.

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MAN-SIZED HAND MADE for YOU ALONE

This is an original! A hand crafted sterling silver signet ring. Engraved with oak leaves and acorns adorned with your own magnificent 14-Karat solid gold Old English initial. Made to order for you! In Sterling Silver $18.00. Solid Gold $50.00 (both incl. tax incl.) Christmas delivery, your satisfaction guaranteed. Cash or money order only. No stamps or COD's please! Allow two weeks for delivery. Include ring size with order.

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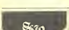

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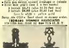
Lee Gunsmiths Dept. C. [illegible]



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Builds 50 units ... each big enough to play in!

In minutes—any child from 4 to 14 can build such things as playhouses, lemonade stands, beach cabanas. All big enough to play in! Comes in 30" x 3½" package that contains enough equipment to assemble over 50 life-size, brilliantly-colored units! $3.50 postpaid

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PATAKWA MOCCASINS—Ideal gift

[illegible]

FOR MEN AND WOMEN [illegible]

FOR CHILDREN [illegible]

OLD PUEBLO TRADERS [illegible]

Christmas IS TUMS TIME

TUMS

★ Yes holiday food often brings on stomach distress. So put a big box of gift wrapped Tums beneath the tree. "Delighted to receive it," the folks will say. For the whole family can then enjoy festive food without fear of acid indigestion, heartburn. Gift wrap a box for your favorite folks.

12 ROLL BOX ONLY $1.00

FOR THE TUMMY

FREE GIFT FOR YOU

[illegible]

Please send me FREE your attractive metal container to carry Tums in pocket or purse.

Name

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City State

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THE Handmade FLYING JODHPUR

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Carefully chosen grain patterns—gold filled band—popular shapes. A real buy. Genuine imported brior. $3.50

Smokes sweet from the start

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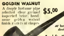

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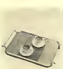

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SOME BOOK IDEAS for the intellectuals: *Classic Art: Great Masters of the Italian Renaissance* by H. Wölfflin, 8 color pp., 200 illus. (Garden City Books, Phaidon, $6.50); *The Gilbert and Sullivan Book* by Leslie Baily—a Savoyard Baedeker (British Book Centre, Cassell & Co., 512 pp., 10 color plates, 400 illus., $9).

ART BOOKS that should be welcome under the Christmas tree: *Currier & Ives America* has a commentary by Colin Simkin, 80 color prints, 176 pp. (Crown, $10.00). *Art Treasures of the Metropolitan* is edited by M. B. Davidson, 130 full page full color prints, 61 monochromes, 240 pp. (Harry N. Abrams, $12.50).

FOR THE READER who wants to improve on his favorite recreation here are books that should help: *The Standard Book of Hunting and Shooting* edited by R. B. Stringfellow, about wraps it up (Greystone Press, 564 pp., $5.95). *Advanced Photography* by Andreas Feininger is not for beginners (Prentice-Hall, $7.50).

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